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JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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Brutal sucker-punch incident spurs police to issue warning metroNEWS

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Your essential daily news

Nunavut woman accuses U.K. fashion label of appropriating an Inuit design. **Canada**

Miss Canada denied entrance to China for beauty pageant

FREE SPEECH

Lin outspoken on country's human rights abuses

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Canada's Miss World contestant says she was barred Thursday from entering China to take part in this year's pageant because of her outspoken views on human rights abuses in the communist country.

Anastasia Lin, who was born in China and went to high school in the Vancouver area, said in a statement on her Facebook page that she was unable to board her connecting flight from Hong Kong to the Chinese resort city of Sanya, where the Miss World final is taking place Dec. 19.

The 25-year-old said airline staff told her at check-in that she needed to speak to an official in Sanya. She said the official, who identified himself only by his last name, Chen, seemed to be attempting to verify her identify. After telling her she wasn't eligible for a visa, the man refused to give a reason then abruptly hung up the phone, she said.

"My denial was unfortunate, but not entirely unexpected," she said on Facebook. "The Chinese government has barred me from the competition for political reasons. They are trying to punish me for my beliefs and prevent me from speaking out about human rights issues."

Lin said Thursday's incident confirms her earlier suspicions that she was being blocked from taking part in the international beauty pageant.

On Facebook, she said she is the only Miss World contestant who did not receive an invitation letter from organizers explaining that she needed to apply for a visa.

"I was never given an explanation as to why I did not receive the letter," she said. "Under Chinese law, however, Canadian citizens are eligible to obtain a landing visa upon arrival in Sanya, so I decided to try attending anyway."

Lin, who made human rights part of her winning bid to become Miss World Canada, is a follower of the Falun Gong meditation practice, which was outlawed by China's ruling Communist Party in 1999.

In July, she testified before the U.S. Congress, telling the hearing that tens of thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been killed so their organs could be harvested and sold for transplants. The actress also plays an imprisoned practitioner of the outlawed Falun Gong sect in an upcoming Canadian movie, The Bleeding Edge.

After she won Miss Canada, Lin claimed Chinese security agents visited her father and forced him to intimidate her into silence.

"He sent me a text message a few days after I was crowned telling me that … I must stop my advocacy for human rights in China, otherwise we have to walk separate ways," she told Metro in a previous interview.

Miss World contestant Anastasia Lin, who went to high school in the Vancouver area, was barred Thursday from entering China to take part in this year's pageant final in Sanya. CONTRIBUTED

While she considered holding back from expressing her views at first, Lin said she will continue to "advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves."

As a child growing up in China, she said her job as a student council president involved enforcing ideological purity among her classmates and organizing them to watch communist propaganda. It was only after moving to Canada that she realized what it means to "think freely," said Lin.

"To me, this is the essence of being Canadian and living in a free society," she said. "That is why I tried to go to Sanya."

While she wasn't surprised by China's denial of her visa, Lin said she was disappointed.

"This is not conduct befitting an aspiring superpower — especially one that hopes to host international competitions such as Miss World and the upcoming Winter Olympics," she said. "Silencing beauty queens, censoring journalists and torturing religious believers is not a sign of strength — it is a sign of profound weakness and insecurity."

WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAFETY

Richmond to consult public about independent police force

RCMP officers investigate a shooting in Richmond in 2013.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The City of Richmond will launch consultations in early 2016 as it moves ahead with possibly breaking its contract with the RCMP.

British Columbia — which has the largest deployment of RCMP officers in the country — signed onto a 20-year agreement with RCMP along with five other provinces and three territories in 2012.

But Richmond city council has since raised concerns over its oversight of the RCMP's policing plans and finances.

Council asked staff to review its options and on Thursday it released a report on police services that breaks down the two remaining choices: keep the RCMP or start a new police force.

The report says transitioning to an independent police department would come with a one-time cost of $19.6 million.

Staff projects the operating budget for a new police force in 2018 (the earliest one could be set up) would be between $46.97 million to $48.67 million at existing service levels, compared to $44.74 million if it keeps using the RCMP.

While a new force is more expensive, the report notes that Richmond currently has the second-lowest ratio of police officers to population in the region.

All individual municipal police departments in the region are served by more officers per capita while Richmond RCMP officers have a 40 per cent higher criminal caseload, according to the report.

Property taxes would need to be raised whether the city decides to start a new police agency or increase current RCMP staffing levels, the report states.

A statement from the city says it has not made any decision at this time, despite "significant concerns about the RCMP Municipal Police Unit agreement when it was renewed" in 2012.

Both options, keeping the RCMP or starting a new police force, will go to public consultation next year, it said.

The city will continue to be served by the RCMP in the interim. MATT KIELTYKA / METRO

The victim of an Oct. 25 sucker-punch incident in Vancouver remains in hospital with life-altering injuries. ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED/VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police warn of sucker punches

CRIME

Three people have died and others injured in assaults

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver-area man has suffered life-altering injuries and has been in hospital for a month after being sucker punched in the city's entertainment district.

And police — in a rare public plea made Thursday — say he's far from the only victim.

So far this year, Vancouver police have responded to 10 sudden "one-punch" assaults, each leading to the unsuspecting victim being knocked unconscious and suffering serious injuries.

Three of the victims have died.

"This could happen to you or me walking down the street," said Vancouver police spokesman Const. Brian Montague.

"We do have individuals that come into the city that are looking for trouble, looking to get into a fight, and unfortunately this is the result sometimes.

"As a victim, it's hard to say to people how to avoid a situation like this. Our plea is for those making a conscious decision to put their hand into a fist and take a swing. It will cause life-altering injuries or death. And (the assailants') lives will be changed as well. We will arrest them, and they will find themselves in court."

> **This could happen to you or me walking down the street.**
> Const. Brian Montague

The public warning comes after a 34-year-old man was brutally assaulted while walking home with his wife after attending a comedy show in the early morning hours of Oct. 25.

Montague said the couple was walking along the 600-block of Smithe Street, near the Granville entertainment district, when they passed two groups of men arguing over hiring a limousine.

As the couple walked by, one of the men allegedly punched the victim, knocking him unconscious and causing him to hit his head on the pavement.

"There's nothing to suggest there was any kind of provocation," said Montague. "This was someone getting hit one time, a sucker punch in this case, and being rendered unconscious."

The husband, a Richmond resident, was rushed to hospital, where he had to undergo emergency surgery and have a portion of his brain tissue removed to save his life.

Although he survived, Montague said, the victim's condition was so bad, homicide investigators were standing by to take over the case.

He remains in hospital with severe injuries and brain damage.

"The prognosis is he'll have life-altering injuries that he'll deal with forever," said Montague.

Police say there have been nine other similar incidents this year, all "one-punch" occurrences involving young, male assailants near bars and entertainment districts.

"Anywhere we have bars is where we see them," said Montague. "There's no part of the city that's really immune to this."

A 23-year-old Coquitlam man has been arrested in connection with the Oct. 25 assault and has been released pending further investigation.

Police are asking any witnesses to come forward, particularly the limousine drivers who were at the scene and a woman with a prosthetic leg who stopped to help the victim.

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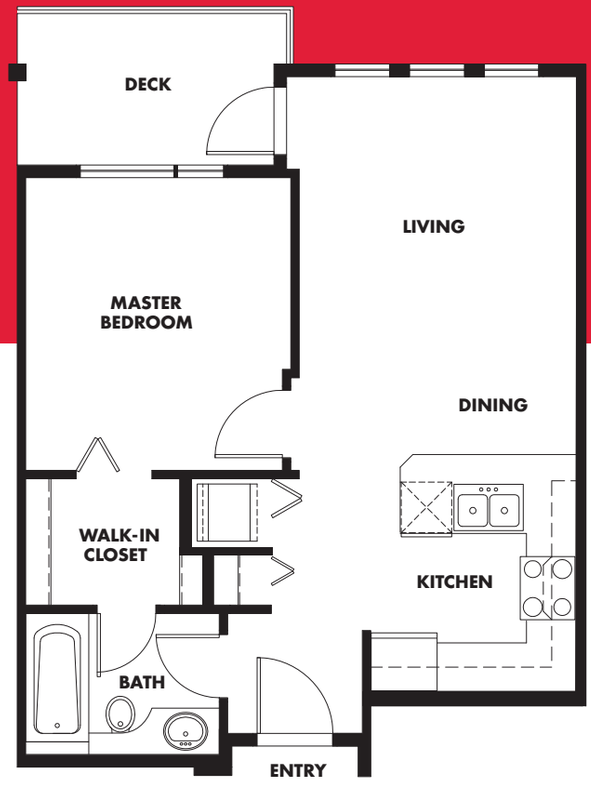

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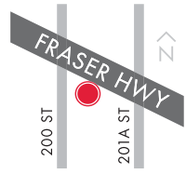

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RENNIE MARKETING SYSTEMS

Envy fuels Facebook users: UBC study

SOCIAL MEDIA

Need to compete can take its toll, researchers say

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Envy and an urge to "keep up with the Joneses" drives Facebook users to post glamorous photos that portray their best selves, suggests new research from the University of British Columbia.

The study, which surveyed 1,193 Facebook users at a German university, found that many people are driven to post online because of a need to compete and keep up appearances. But that can have negative consequences for users' emotional wellbeing, the researchers warn.

"Social media participation has been linked to depression, anxiety and narcissistic behaviour, but the reasons haven't been well-explained," Izak Benbasat, senior author of the study and a professor in UBC's Sauder School of Business, said in a news release. "We found envy to be the missing link."

For the study, Benbasat and his co-authors asked survey participants a series of questions about their Facebook habits and cross-referenced them with the feelings they reported when using the platform.

The leading cause of Facebook envy? Travel photos, the researchers found.

Benbasat said witnessing photos of friends having fun and visiting exotic locales makes people to feel their lives are unfulfilling by comparison, which in turns sparks a vicious cycle of jealousy that prompts them to also post online.

A University of British Columbia study suggests **envy is a key motivator that drives people to post on Facebook.** COLOURBOX.COM

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LIBRARY

SFU gets $1.8M TV and film collection

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The Simon Fraser University Library received its highest valued donation ever on Thursday.

Vancouver-based film and television production company Force Four Entertainment has donated scripts, production texts, 31,000 photos, and more than 5,000 films and tapes — 32 years worth of material valued at $1.8 million — to the library's collection.

The collection includes documentaries on Canadians including Terry Fox and Rick Hansen, and award-winning films and documentaries like 65_Red_Roses.

SFU's associate university librarian Brian Owen said his first priority will be to digitalize and preserve any materials at risk of degradation.

The collection includes Betacam tapes, floppy discs and 20,200 feet of 35-millimetre film.

"Even if you have the playback units for the specific film type, you may not want to use them because the cassettes do not age gracefully," Owen said in a statement. "As soon as we get this collection, we want to carefully transfer it to a digital medium for preservation purposes and to make it accessible."

MORE LOCAL NEWS ONLINE

IN BRIEF

TransLink appoints two new directors

Larry Beasley, former City of Vancouver co-director of planning, is one of two new appointees to the TranLink Board of Directors, the transportation authority announced Thursday.

Beasley joins the board along with Tony Gugliotta, the senior vice-president of business development at the Vancouver Airport Authority.

The pair replace outgoing directors John Dawson and Robin Chakrabarti, who have completed their terms.

"All of us on the board are looking forward to working with our new colleagues, both of whom bring tremendous experience in finance, marketing, planning and urban design," said TransLink board chair Barry Forbes in a statement.

METRO

Abbotsford opening winter shelter

The provincial government and the City of Abbotsford have banded together to fund the construction of a 40-bed homeless shelter that will be open from mid-December until the end of April.

The province will kick in $450,000 and the city will contribute $750,000 for the shelter, which will be operated by the Lookout Emergency Aid Society.

"The Temporary Response Shelter will provide a warm, safe place to stay through the winter months for up to 40 people currently living outside our community," said Abbotsford Mayor Henry Braun in a statement. "(It is) an important step in helping people move toward more permanent housing." METRO

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Take the pledge, Robertson urges

CLIMATE

City wants residents to commit to living green

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouverites may love the city's green image, but are residents doing their part to actually live green lifestyles?

Mayor Gregor Robertson wants citizens to pledge to do just that with a new climate action pledge released Thursday, days before he flies to Paris for the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change.

The pledge asks residents to support stronger action on climate change and to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by improving the energy efficiency of their homes or businesses, choosing green transportation like bicycles or electric cars and/or adopting a zero-waste lifestyle by composting and recycling.

"We're hoping to get some momentum around this as we go into Paris," Robertson said at a news conference.

The initiative comes two months after the city created a similar pledge for local businesses. More than 200 have signed up so far, including Telus, MEC and Vancity.

The federal government launched a similar pledge called the One-Tonne Challenge in 2004, but it failed to get much traction and was scrapped two years and tens of millions of dollars later.

But Robertson thinks it will be different this time because of increased awareness about climate change and new solutions available to make a difference.

> **I focus on it through all aspects of my lifestyle.**
> Mayor Gregor Robertson

For his part, the mayor said he tries to minimize his car travel (he often arrives at news conferences on his bicycle), eat a low-carbon diet and ensure his home is energy efficient.

"I focus on it through all aspects of my lifestyle. I'll continue to do that and try to take it to the next level," he said.

For critics who say the mayor is hypocritical for touting a green lifestyle while jet setting around the world — he's recently traveled to the Vatican, the White House and the UN to talk climate change — he said he'd prefer not to fly but that it's a "necessary evil" to share Vancouver's success story.

"It's a challenge. It's a big chunk of carbon, but I think there's a very legitimate reason for it or else I wouldn't be doing it."

The mayor buys carbon offsets for all his flights and has done so since 2009.

Interested city residents can sign the climate pledge at vancouver.ca.

Mayor Gregor Robertson hopes Vancouverites will lie green lifestyles. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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ECONOMY

City is a climate 'myth buster'

Vancouver's mayor hopes to inspire other cities to go green — and to convince clean tech companies to move here — when he tells stories of the city's environmental successes at the world's largest conference on climate change next week.

Mayor Gregor Robertson, four city staff and four delegates from the Vancouver Economic Commission, alongside more than 30 local businesses, academics and non-profits, are en route to Paris for the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change, also known as COP21.

As world leaders negotiate an agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 2 C above pre-industrial levels, the mayor and city staff will be hustling between more than 30 events to network with tens of thousands of business leaders.

"There are great opportunities in Paris for Vancouver to advance our business and trade goals," Robertson told reporters while standing underneath the solar panels on the 24th storey of Telus' swanky new LEED Platinum headquarters at Georgia and Robson.

Vancouver companies attending the conference include the Green Spark Group, Brinkman Climate, Offsetters/Nature Bank, Clean Energy Canada and Alterra Power Corp.

Vancouver is "a great myth buster" since its thriving economy proves being green doesn't hurt the economy, Robertson said, noting the Conference Board of Canada said the city is leading economic growth in the country this year.

The Vancouver Economic Commission's Ian McKay, Telus' Andrea Goertz, Mayor Gregor Robertson and Innergex Renewable Energy's Colleen Giroux-Schmidt at the Telus Garden on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

"We're setting the standard for what a thriving and prosperous city looks like, providing an example for other cities around the globe," he said.

He doesn't think the city's affordability problem hurts its chances of attracting new companies since Vancouver is relatively cheaper than cities including New York, London, Tokyo and San Francisco.

"We're talking about green and creative jobs that actually are good paying jobs and are lifting Vancouver's average income up and ability for people to access housing," he said.

The trip will cost taxpayers an estimated $15,000.

Robertson believes sharing ideas, such as Vancouver's strategy to rely solely on renewable energy by 2050, will help cities around the world cut back on greenhouse gases — a critical step since urban centres are responsible for about 70 per cent of emissions.

"Ultimately it's going to be cities delivering the majority of the solutions," he said. "We need to be at the table." EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Luxury sedan service Ripe Rides launches in Vancouver

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The mix of taxi, limo and Uber is great if you can afford it

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Dressed in a suit and tie, professional chauffeur Ricky Goraya opens the door to an immaculate black 2016 Cadillac XTS. Water bottles and a leather interior await the passengers who called the driver with a sleek smartphone app that uses a cashless payment system.

Welcome to Vancouver's swanky new transportation service, Ripe Rides, a luxury sedan company that operates as a sort of taxi-limousine-Uber hybrid that it hopes will appeal to affluent Vancouverites.

Ripe will start rolling out its services next week, entering the market seven months after B.C.'s Passenger Transportation Branch granted it 20 licences — a major feat in a market where regulators are notoriously stingy in approving new competitors (ahem, Uber) or even additional part-time taxi licences.

Goraya and company founder Otis Perrick took Metro on a spin to show off the new service on Thursday. Perrick, a successful local tech entrepreneur, is clearly excited to get the fleet on the street in time for Christmas party season after two years of slogging through the legal system. He touts it as a safe, traceable "driver concierge" that will appeal to a business crowd.

Ripe Rides founder Otis Perrick shows off the new sedan service on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

And he's also quick to refute comparisons to Uber despite striking similarities between the services when it comes to consumer experience.

> **I think any company that comes into Vancouver should have to go through the same processes.**
> Otis Perrick

Both use smartphone apps to connect passengers and drivers, both allow customers to rate drivers and both allow for cashless payments and estimated trip costs.

But unlike Uber, Perrick notes, Ripe requires drivers to have Class 4 licences. They must also take training to help people with disabilities, go through a criminal-record check and have a clean abstract for five years.

The drivers are company employees who earn a minimum hourly wage plus commission on each ride; tips are at the passengers' discretion. Ripe pays for gas, insurance and the cars and has hired 25 drivers thus far.

On top of that, Ripe sought and received approval from the necessary regulators. It follows their insurance rules and convinced them to create a new price point for its services.

"I think any company that comes into Vancouver should have to go through the same processes," Perrick said when asked to comment on Uber, which previously entered the market outside the legal framework.

Ripe's other major difference is price point. It costs about 25 per cent more than taxis and 25 per cent less than limos, which are required to charge by the hour. Ripe starts with a $15 flat fee and a scaled fee per kilometre thereafter.

It's certainly not cheap; Metro's four-and-a-half-block ride came to $24.15. (Ripe covered the cost.)

Twenty new cars likely won't make much of a dent in the city's demand for rides, considering the Vancouver Taxi Association recently requested an extra 200 temporary licences for the busy holiday rush.

But Perrick is betting people trying to get home from holiday parties will be interested in the service. If people do adopt Ripe, he hopes to eventually grow the fleet and operate across Metro Vancouver.

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The cost of Metro's four-and-a-half block trip (covered by Ripe Rides).

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IN BRIEF

University of Northern B.C. names sixth chancellor

Former federal Conservative Party cabinet minister James Moore has been named chancellor of the University of Northern B.C. (UNBC)

Moore becomes the sixth chancellor at UNBC and will be sworn in during the convocation ceremony in Prince George next May.

The 39-year-old former politician who held senior positions such as industry minister did not stand for re-election in October. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspected carjacking couple arrested

RCMP say an unnamed victim picked up a man and woman he believed were stranded on Highway 97C on Wednesday and gave them a ride into Merritt. The pair forced the man to drive to a rural area, produced a gun and assaulted him but ran off when they were unable to take the car.

RCMP tracked the couple to a hotel. The woman was arrested outside and a response team eventually arrested the man inside one of the rooms. THE CANADIAN PRESS

School, office closed over tanker-truck gasoline spill

Officials in the municipality of Coldstream estimate that about 6,000 litres of gasoline spilled when a tanker truck overfilled a holding tank at a Centax gas station Wednesday.

Rick Wagner from the B.C. Ministry of Environment says the spill could take a week to clean up, but all of the gas was contained.

Gasoline fumes forced the closure of the nearby Coldstream Elementary School and the Coldstream District. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE 2016 CITY BUDGET

Garbage pickup, the development permit department and public safety are poised to get extra cash from the City of Vancouver next year.

The city released its draft 2016 budget on Tuesday, a mammoth 348-page plan to spend $1.264 billion on operations and $325.2 million on capital investments.

To pay to keep up with ever-increasing public safety costs — police officers and firefighters aren't cheap, and wages are expected to rise in a new round of bargaining — the city recommends a property tax increase of 2.3 per cent and a slight increase in utility fees. This will amount to an extra $100 annually for the median single-family home valued at $1,121,000.

The city expects to pull in an extra $41 million in taxes and fees next year, but only $11.6 million will go to new initiatives including the new Strathcona library, Downtown Eastside planning initiatives, the park board's online registration system and the Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency.

EMILY JACKSON of Metro looks at the three largest new investments:

1 Public realm cleanliness: $2.8M

Coffee cups spilling from public garbage bins, cigarette butts discarded on sidewalks, crows pecking away at overflowing trash cans in parks.

If these sights make you cringe, you'll be pleased to know the city wants to step up its game when it comes to cleanliness in the public realm. It will invest an extra $2.8 million in street cleaning and abandoned waste pickup after somewhat of a dirty year. Calls to 311 complaining about overflowing street and park litter jumped by 71 per cent in 2015, according to budget documents, and the number of illegal dumping and abandoned garbage incidents jumped by 27 per cent.

ERIC DREGER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 Permit-processing time: $2.1M

Wait times for homeowners and developers applying for development permits have ballooned enough to require new staff to process the permits.

The city received a record number of permit applications in both 2014 and 2015, according to the budget, and will spend $2.1 million to hire employees to address the backlog and reduce permit wait times.

The money for the staff will come from increased development permit application fees that council approved earlier this fall.

METRO FILE

METRO FILE

3 New fire trucks and boats: $1.4M

The third-largest new expenditure will go to the fire department, which has been promised a new fleet of fire trucks and boats since 2014.

The city promises to start delivering the new fleet of trucks in 2016, with the additional budget going toward the operating costs of the extra vehicles. The fire department will also get some cash for a driver training program in the hopes that better drivers will ultimately reduce the city's costs related to fuel and accidents.

Those who want a say in how the city spends their money can speak at council on Dec. 9. Council is scheduled to vote on the budget on Dec. 15.

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Beverages and light snacks will be provided.

Please register in advance at www.badgut.org/events or 604-873-4876.

COURT

Killer is dangerous offender

A globetrotting, two-time murderer caught up in an undercover police sting — and whose killings include bludgeoning his roommate to death with a sledgehammer — has been labelled a dangerous offender in a B.C. court.

Thomas McDonald, 64, will serve an indeterminate prison sentence after he confessed during a so-called sting operation to carrying out a fatal 1981 shooting in Dawson Creek, B.C.

McDonald was convicted three decades after the fact of killing Earl Jones, following a bar-room confrontation in which Jones allegedly embarrassed McDonald by slapping him in front of other patrons for asking to dance with his wife.

Court documents indicate McDonald waited for Jones outside the hotel pub before shooting him in the head with a rifle.

McDonald reported that he "really wasn't aiming to kill," but just wanted to scare Jones, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Gregory Fitch's judgment said.

McDonald is quoted in the judgment as telling undercover officers he was trying to shoot out the truck's windows but that Jones' head got in the way.

He fled to the United States at the time, while Canadian authorities decided in the meantime there was insufficient evidence to recommend charges.

In 2002, McDonald was deported from the U.S. following a string of petty crimes and moved to the United Kingdom. It was there, in 2003, where McDonald used a sledgehamer to kill a roommate he allegedly found rifling through his belongings.

He was convicted and sentenced to six years for the killing, but granted parole in 2007. McDonald promptly breached the terms of his bail, fleeing the U.K. and making his way surreptitiously back into Canada.

Police learned of his return two years later and set up the undercover sting, which led to his 2011 conviction.

Fitch wrote in his judgment that he believes McDonald poses a high risk to act violently in the future and that aging doesn't appear to have lessened his violent tendencies, given that he committed his second homicide at 52.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Massive diamond is priceless, for now

MINING

Largest find in over a century has yet to be appraised

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

The boss of a Vancouver-based mining company that has found the largest single diamond in more than 100 years says he doesn't want to put a price yet on what he hopes to get for the massive gem.

William Lamb, president and CEO of Lucara, told Metro that he has already been offered more than $40 million for the stone, which was found on Monday, and has also received an enquiry from the Natural History Museum in London to put the diamond on display.

But Lamb said he's not yet ready to put a price tag on the diamond. Instead, he said he would rather focus on how much someone is willing to pay for the roughly tennis ball-sized stone.

"There's no real precedent yet for very large stones being sold," he told Metro in a phone interview. "There's all sorts of things that will play into how much the stone actually gets sold for, but I think because of its historical significance, maybe the market needs to focus on how much is the stone worth?"

1,111
Number of carats in the discovered diamond

The diamond, which Lamb said is the second largest "gem quality" stone ever discovered, measures 1,111 carats, making it the biggest find in more than a century.

He said the process of appraising the stone is also complicated by the fact that there is no technology available to scan a diamond that large.

According to the Royal Collection Trust, which oversees British royal treasures, the largest diamond ever found was the 3,106-carat Cullinan diamond, unearthed in South Africa in 1905. That diamond was cut into smaller pieces that are part of the Crown jewels.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Vancouver-based mining company has found the largest single diamond in more than 100 years. COURTESY LUCARA

IVAN HENRY

Feds settle wrongful-conviction lawsuit

A second defendant has settled a wrongful-conviction lawsuit with a British Columbia man who spent almost three decades behind bars before being acquitted of 10 sexual assaults.

Ivan Henry's lawyer told a B.C. Supreme Court trial on Thursday that the federal government had settled with his client for an undisclosed amount.

John Laxton read a statement to the judge saying the federal government never made allegations that Henry was guilty.

"The federal government now states that no inference should be drawn that the federal government ever agreed with these (guilty) allegations," said the statement.

"Or, that the federal government ever condoned the making of these allegations — and the federal government absolutely disavows them now."

The argument that Henry was actually guilty of the crimes came from the City of Vancouver in its opening statement at the compensation hearing.

But the city settled with Henry last week, and "unequivocally" withdrew its accusations. The deal also resolved claims against the Vancouver Police Department.

After Thursday's hearing, another lawyer for Henry said the terms of the agreement are confidential.

"He's obviously pleased that this part of the case is behind him, but he appreciates that we have to move forward with the rest of the trial," said Marilyn Sandford in an interview.

The provincial government remains the only defendant in the case and is expected to call its last witness on Friday.

Ivan Henry leaves B.C. Supreme Court on Aug. 31.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government had been slated to open its case after the province had concluded its submissions.

Federal government lawyer Mitchell Taylor also refrained from providing details of the settlement.

> **The federal government absolutely disavows (the allegations) now.**
> A read statement

"(Henry and his lawyer) will not be making any further claims against the federal government to do with Mr. Henry's situation," Taylor said Thursday.

Henry, 69, launched his suit against the federal and provincial governments and the City of Vancouver after the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled he had been wrongfully convicted.

The trial to establish whether damages were warranted began in August.

Henry was convicted in 1983 of rape and indecent assault against eight women in Vancouver and declared a dangerous offender.

A lawyer for the B.C. government has told court that Henry's case may have ended differently years ago had he chosen not to represent himself and accepted a publicly funded lawyer instead.

However, that legal argument has been heavily criticized by those who say the province controls legal-aid funding.

The decisions by two levels of government to settle with Henry have expedited his trial, which had been expected to last 100 days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A grey Honda Civic is brought to a stop in West Vancouver after leading police on a high-speed pursuit across six municipalities Thursday. RYAN STELTIN/FOR METRO

Two arrested after chase across six municipalities

CRIME

High-speed pursuit ends with a bang as police catch up

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Mounties have arrested two people who led them on a dramatic high-speed car chase through six Metro Vancouver municipalities in the early hours of Thursday.

Shortly after 1 a.m., police responded to a break and enter call in the Guildford area of Surrey. While officers began flooding the area, they noticed a suspicious vehicle with two people inside.

"And the suspicious vehicle noticed us," Cpl. Scotty Schumann, spokesman for Surrey RCMP, told Metro. "They said, 'Oh, time to get out of here.' Away they went and … in their attempt to get away, they hit a police car."

Police determined the grey 2000 Honda Civic had been stolen out of Port Coquitlam. After refusing to stop, Schumann said the driver headed out of Surrey onto Highway 1 westbound.

> **They said, 'Oh, time to get out of here.' Away they went … and in their attempt to get away, they hit a police car.**
> Cpl. Scotty Schumann

Mounties pursued the vehicle with lights and sirens on across six municipalities until it reached West Vancouver, where police officers had set up a spike belt across the highway.

The device caused the tires to deflate and fall off, and the vehicle crashed "almost right away" into a barrier, said Schumann.

Police immediately arrested the driver, a 25-year-old Maple Ridge man, and a 23-year-old Coquitlam woman at the scene of the crash. Both are known to police.

The pair remains in police custody while criminal charges are being considered.

Although the vehicle reached speeds up to 140 km/h during the police pursuit, at no point was the public in any danger, said Schumann.

It's also fortunate that none of the officers involved in the chase were injured, Schumann said.

"(The suspect's) car got disabled and he ended up going into a cement barrier all by himself, but they weren't hurt," he said.

"And none of our members were hurt, so we're thankful."

COURTS

Trial for firearms collapses

The Crown has abandoned its trial against a British Columbia man accused of operating a "chop shop" for firearms after a judge ruled RCMP made too many mistakes in its investigation.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Hope Hyslop said police breaches of the charter were too numerous and serious to allow evidence against Charles Patrick to be admitted after guns and ammunition were seized during a raid.

Patrick was charged with eight weapons-related offences, and a trial began in September. The end of proceedings means the charges have been dropped.

Mounties pulled over Patrick's pickup in December 2013 and found a loaded sawed-off shotgun inside his jacket.

The Crown said police seized a number of other modified weapons from his home the same day.

Crown lawyer Frank Caputo said police found another sawed-off shotgun, a shortened rifle, tools to modify guns and "ammo all over the place."

At a news conference following the raid, RCMP displayed the guns and said the operation was gang-related.

While Hyslop acknowledged unlawful firearms are a major concern, she said police errors were too serious to allow the evidence.

Breaches included initially questioning Patrick when he was pulled over and failing to allow him adequate time to call a lawyer after arrest.

Police also did not have a complete copy of a search warrant for the raid while Patrick was not home and provided contradictory facts to a judge to obtain the search warrant, Hyslop said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Publicist Rory Richards in her West End home on Thursday as she prepares to travel to the Greek island of Lesbos this weekend to help support Syrian refugees. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Vancouverite heads to Greece to support Syrian refugees

CAMPAIGN

She's bringing toiletries, emergency blankets

Graeme McRanor
For Metro | Vancouver

Because we can.
Because they need.
Because we want to.
Because we are able to.
Because it is the right thing to do.

Those are some of the phrases Vancouver publicist Rory Richards wrote on her gofundme page to support Syrian refugees in Greece called, fittingly, Because.

And when Richards arrives on the Greek island of Lesbos this weekend, she'll hand-deliver hundreds of pairs of socks, toiletries and foil emergency blankets.

Oh, and 250 clown noses.

"They're light, they're easy to pack and they make people smile," she says. "I think that's important, despite the situation. If we can make children smile, we can make adults smile."

Efficient strategy. But why fly all that way to execute it?

"Like many Canadians, like many people in the world, we're feeling a sense of interconnectedness that transcends the boundaries of our country.

"We're all in this boat together, so to speak."

If you question Richards' metaphor, consider this: in the mid-90s, when she was starting out in the publicity business, she went to a shop on Davie Street to procure some items for an "Arabian Nights" themed party she was hosting. Turns out this shop, owned by a Syrian named Nabil Shash, had almost everything she needed. So their business, which Richards says Shash did in an "old country way," took several visits, and days, to conclude.

"I started to admire an opulent golden tea set he had in his store that I hadn't noticed previously," she says. "In one meeting, I boldly suggested he should include the tea set in the price we were negotiating."

Shash refused as it was a very rare and expensive item.

But on the last day of their business transaction, when everything was loaded into her car, Shash shook her hand, wished her well and added: "Oh, I almost forgot. Wait here."

He went back inside and reappeared with a carefully wrapped bag.

"The tea set you love. A gift. From me to you."

It was, Richards says, an unexpected gesture of generosity that she's never forgotten.

> **Like many Canadians, like many people in the world, we're feeling a sense of interconnectedness that transcends the boundaries of our country.** Rory Richards

Ten years later, Richards opened a nail salon in Montreal and hired a young Syrian intern named Suzy.

"I told her the story of Nabil and the golden tea set," she says. "She was shocked. I remember the expression on her face. She said, 'That's my dad.'

"Neither one of us could believe it."

"I was very surprised," says Suzy Shash, now a graphic designer still living and working in Montreal. "But I remembered my father speaking about [her] all those years ago, how a wonderful woman organized this big Arabic event and bought out his store!"

So tangible connections is what prompted Richards to travel to a tiny Greek island off the coast of Turkey, where she's also rented a van to help ferry refugees to the closest town.

"Transport is very scarce on the island," she says. "When refugees arrive, they generally arrive on the northern tip of the island, which is 40 miles from Mytilene, the main town. Many of them have to walk that distance if there are no volunteers to drive them.

"Imagine, if you've got young children, you've just survived a perilous journey across water, you've got nothing but the clothes on your back, you're soaking wet, it's cold, it's winter, and it's a three-day walk into town, where they have to wait to be registered before they can cross to mainland Europe, and that registration process is now taking three weeks, and so they're sleeping outside, in the rain, until they're processed.

Thanks to her, some will get a ride. And on the side of the van, they'll see a graphic designed by Suzy Shash, in English and in Arabic, that says: Because.

They'll see it because it's there.

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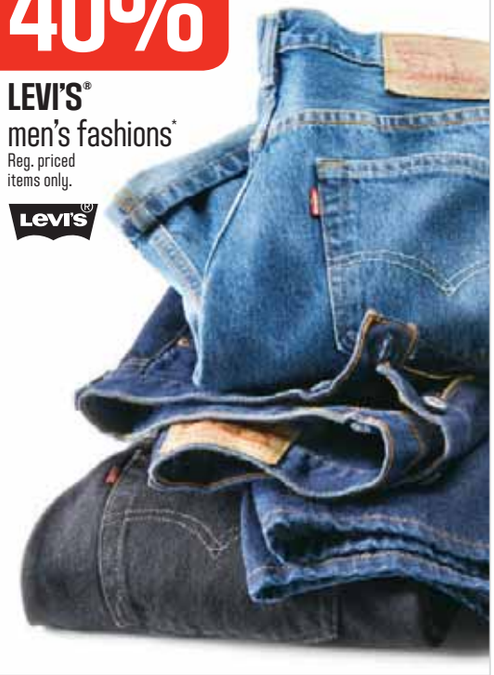

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Transportation service upgrade coming to Highway of Tears

TODD STONE

Minister considers volunteer-driven vans

B.C. Transportation Minister Todd Stone JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

B.C. is set to announce transportation service upgrades along the so-called Highway of Tears, but the minister responsible says a region-wide shuttle bus sought by First Nations won't be part of the plan.

Transportation Minister Todd Stone said he's considering options such as supporting volunteer-driven vans that link First Nations reserves with communities, improving existing transit schedules and expanding use of a bus that takes people to and from medical appointments.

Eighteen women have been murdered or disappeared along Highway 16 and adjacent routes since the 1970s. The highway stretches about 750 kilometres across the centre of the province from Prince George to Prince Rupert.

"My intentions are to develop and launch a provincial strategy on this that will represent our next steps to enhance transportation services in the corridor, and to do so fairly quickly," Stone said Thursday.

He said he expects to announce changes within weeks.

"This is one of the top priorities on my desk at the moment and there has been a lot of valuable discussion, lots of goodwill demonstrated by everyone involved, so my goal is to act as quickly as I possibly can."

He said transportation options were discussed earlier this week at meetings in Smithers, with almost 100 people attending, including First Nations, community leaders and government officials.

Stone said he's reviewing proposals including improvement of existing B.C. Transit schedules between neighbouring communities such as Houston and Smithers and Terrace and Prince Rupert. He's also considering suggestions to open a health appointment bus in the north to passengers in general.

"Let's see if we can't get more butts into the seats," Stone said.

The minister said he's on board with expanding a current volunteer transit service that links First Nations communities in the Fort St. James area with neighbouring communities of Vanderhoof and Prince George.

"This community-based van service, I think there's a winner there," Stone said. "I think there's an opportunity to take that best practice and replicate it in other areas through the corridor."

Stone said he remains adamant that a regional shuttle bus service favoured by many First Nations is a non-starter. Government documents released recently pegged annual operating costs of a regular shuttle service between Prince George and Prince Rupert at less than $1 million.

"These are all potentially practical, sustainable solutions," Stone said. "They don't involve establishing a scheduled shuttle bus from Prince Rupert to Prince George.

Opposition New Democrat Jennifer Rice, who represents the Prince Rupert area, said she's disappointed that Stone continues to reject a regional shuttle bus.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MEET THE SALISH ORCA

FERRY GETS A NAME

BC Ferries officially named its first Salish-Class ferry the Salish Orca at a ceremony earlier this week at a shipbuilding yard in Poland.

The vessel, the first of three under construction, will replace the 50-year-old Queen of Burnaby on the Comox-Powell River route.

The Salish Orca, which is expect to enter service in late 2016, will be capable of running on LNG or diesel.

COURTESY BC FERRIES

Four Mexicans safe after vanishing

OKANAGAN

Consul staff say they weren't told men located

The Mexican government's representative in B.C. is glad four of his countrymen, who went missing from a north Okanagan farm, have been located.

But consul general Atancio Campos Miramontes, whose Vancouver office was contacted when the men disappeared, did not learn from the RCMP that the four had been located.

"We learned from the press that the four Mexican workers were found. However, this consulate has not yet been notified by the authorities," Miramontes wrote Wednesday in an email.

Later, consul staff phoned the Vernon RCMP to inquire about the case, but say they were not given any information by police.

The four men, among more than 1,000 Mexicans working on Okanagan farms this year, disappeared from a Vernon-area orchard shortly after arriving in Canada in mid-June. They took a cab into Vernon, cashed some cheques and did not return to the farm.

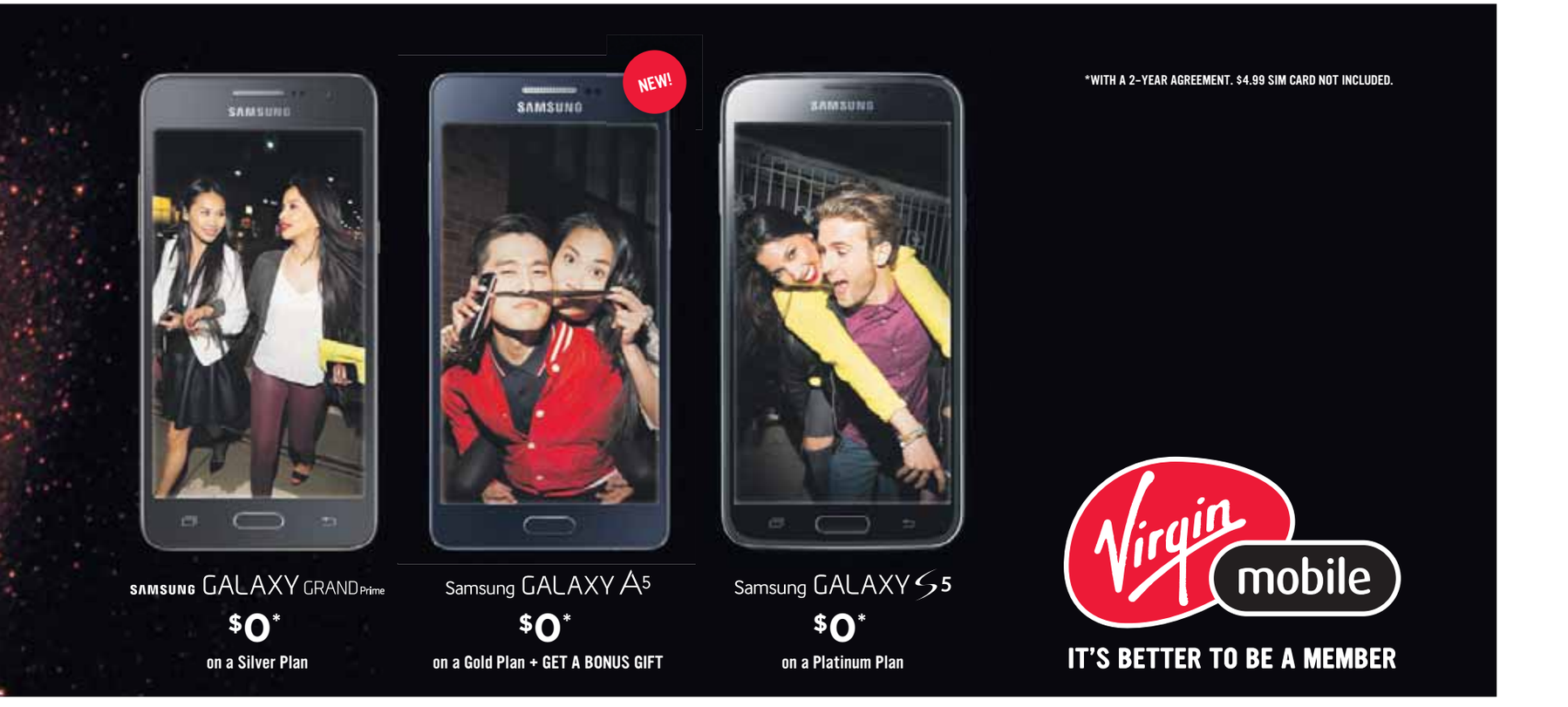
Following their disappearance, Vernon RCMP asked for the public's help in finding Uriel Soto, 37, Isaac Bautista, 27, Juvenal Binedo, 39, and Juan Sanchez, 30.

On Wednesday, Vernon police issued a statement saying their investigation had concluded because the men had been located. An RCMP spokeswoman refused to say where or when the men were found, adding that is usual procedure when missing persons cases are closed.

Mexicans come to the Okanagan through the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, which is designed to help farmers who can't find enough Canadians willing to work in the orchards.

In the 15 years the program has operated in the Okanagan, this was believed to be the first time any Mexicans here under its auspices had gone missing.

"It's never happened before that we know of," said Fred Steele, president of the BC Fruit Growers' Association. "Who knows? Maybe these guys just showed up home again, so they aren't considered missing anymore." THE CANADIAN PRESS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FESTIVE FUN SANTA DOES AWAY WITH REINDEER Scuba Claus dives with belugas Aurora and Qila at Canada's Arctic gallery at the Vancouver Aquarium on Thursday. Scuba Claus will be doing daily dives in the Arctic gallery and the Strait of Georgia exhibit. Visit vanaqua.org for details. COURTESY VANCOUVER AQUARIUM

A mining collaboration pact

DEAL

B.C. and Alaska to focus on environmental protection

The threat of a mining disaster similar to the tailings pond collapse of Mount Polley in central British Columbia has prompted the province and Alaska to sign an environmental protection pact.

Premier Christy Clark and Alaska Gov. Bill Walker signed a deal Wednesday that includes commitments to protect trans-boundary rivers, watersheds and fisheries after both sides expressed concerns about proposed mining projects.

The agreement comes after ongoing protests from U.S. politicians and aboriginal and environmental groups over B.C.'s aspirations to develop mines bordering Alaska, or near the Stikine, Taku and Unuk rivers that support the state's fishery.

An independent, government-ordered report last January into the Mount Polley disaster concluded the spill was caused by an inadequately designed dam. It found the design didn't account for drainage and erosion failures associated with glacial till beneath the pond, causing 24 million cubic metres of silt and water to stream into nearby lakes and rivers.

Alaska's Lt.-Gov. Byron Mallott was dispatched to the mine site last spring after concerns were raised about proposals for mines with similar tailings facilities near the B.C.-Alaska border. Aboriginal and conservation groups from Alaska also visited the Mount Polley mine area.

B.C.'s Energy Minister Bill Bennett made two trips to Alaska in the past year to meet with political, industry and aboriginal officials aiming to alleviate worry about B.C.'s mining industry and environmental regulations.

"What this signifies is the willingness to work together, to spend some money, to share information and to collaborate," said Bennett about the agreement.

> **"What this signifies is the willingness to work together, to spend some money, to share information and to collaborate.**
> B.C.'s Energy Minister Bill Bennett

"Our rivers flow into Alaska waters, so this is a very important threshold for the two jurisdictions to come together, shake hands and say, 'OK, we're going to be better neighbours in the future.'"

The agreement establishes plans for a bilateral working group on the protection of trans-boundary waters. B.C. and Alaska will also develop a joint water-quality monitoring program for trans-boundary waters, and ensure the data is made publicly available.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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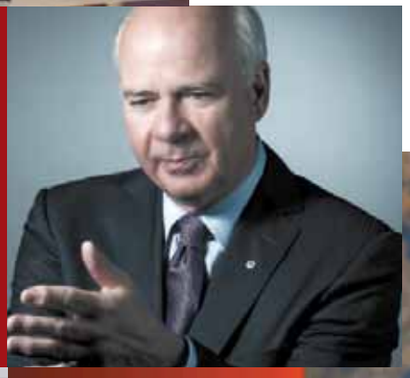

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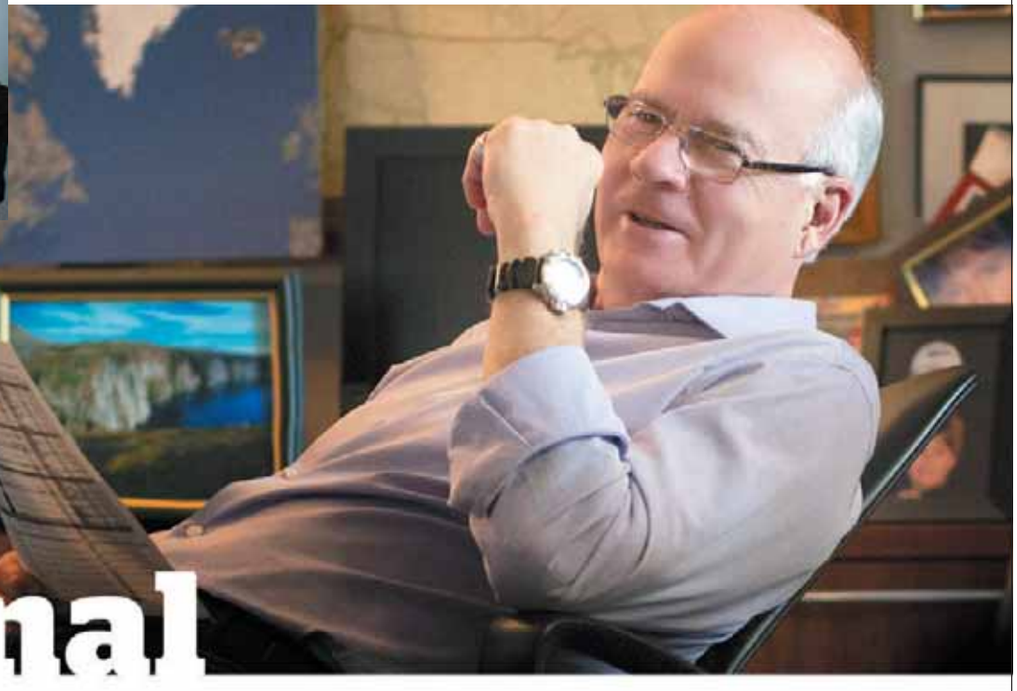

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INTERVIEW

Trudeau issues retort

Justin Trudeau THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has used an interview with an influential BBC current affairs show in London to issue his most pungent retort yet to his Canadian detractors.

Trudeau, 43, endured more than two years of Conservative party attack ads declaring him "just not ready" before sweeping prime minister Stephen Harper from power in last month's federal election.

On BBC television's NewsNight program, Trudeau delivered a retort that could be seen as a direct shot at Harper and other Conservative partisans.

"There's an awful lot of people who sort of shrugged and said he has nothing but a name to go on and found themselves slightly bewildered as I left them in the dust."

Trudeau told the BBC that this year's federal election campaign showed the momentary appeal of divisive policy stances.

"But when you get right down to it, when citizens take a long hard look in the ballot box at actually voting against your neighbours, against someone who's different from you — in pluralistic societies like we have it becomes very difficult to sustain the hatred or the fear of the shopkeeper down the street or your colleague two cubicles over," said Trudeau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Royal Canadian Air Force CF-188 Hornet refuels from a CC-150 Polaris over Iraq during Operation IMPACT on Nov. 7, 2015.
OP IMPACT, DND VIA TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada to pull six jets from air war

ISIS

But refueller, surveillance aircraft could remain

Canada will pull six CF-18s from the combat mission against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria but two reconnaissance aircraft and an air-to-air refueller could remain to assist coalition aircraft in their own bombing sorties.

A senior defence department official said Thursday that discussions on the future of Canada's contribution to the multinational campaign against ISIS continue and that no decisions have been made whether to leave other elements of the air task force in the region.

The Liberals have consistently pledged to end the "combat" mission and withdraw the CF-18s but have not ruled out allowing missions by the other aircraft to continue.

Defence expert Dave Perry said the recon and refuelling aircraft play a valuable role appreciated by other nations. In particular, the two CP-140 Aurora surveillance aircraft, equipped with sophisticated radar and imaging sensors, gather valuable data for ground and air commanders.

"They provide an intelligence picture that supports the coalition writ large," said Perry, a senior analyst with the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

Meanwhile, the Conservatives are challenging the claim by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that a lack of resources could be driving the decision to wind down the combat role.

Trudeau confirmed earlier this month that the CF-18s would be brought home. He said the Liberal government would instead deploy additional troops to beef up the ongoing training mission. Canada has 69 special operations forces soldiers in northern Iraq training local Kurdish militia to better fight Islamic forces.

But when pressed this week why Canada couldn't continue the combat sorties and beef up the training mission at the same time, Trudeau responded that the country has "limited military investments.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NO PRESSURE

A senior Trudeau adviser briefing reporters said British Prime Minister David Cameron did not pressure Trudeau to reconsider his CF-18 decision when the two prime ministers met in London on Wednesday. In fact, the adviser said, not a single world leader has questioned Canada's pending withdrawal from the air war.

REFUGEE RELIEF

Feds give $100M to UN

The Liberal government's long-awaited $100 million contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to help fleeing Syrians is destined for a half-empty international aid bucket.

The UN refugee agency has only raised 45 per cent of the $4.5 billion it sought for 2015 to assist the 4.3 million refugees who have fled Syria for Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, according to its latest statistics.

Canada's contribution, announced Thursday, fulfils a Liberal campaign promise from the federal election, a contribution that includes $10 million for the UN refugee agency to help it select eligible Syrians for settlement in Canada over the next few months.

"Canada is coming out very strongly, not only with this exceptional program of resettling the 25,000 Syrian refugees, but the financial support to UNHCR is absolutely crucial," Furio de Angelis, the UN agency's Ottawa representative, told The Canadian Press.

"Unfortunately our programs are underfunded, and not only UNHCR programs but in general humanitarian programs (are) underfunded."

Government officials in the newly re-named Global Affairs Department acknowledged the vast international funding shortcoming, but said Canada was doing its part because it was still among the top 10 international donors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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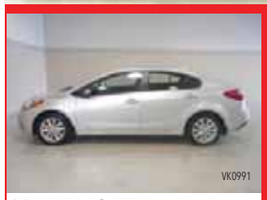
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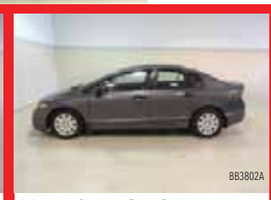
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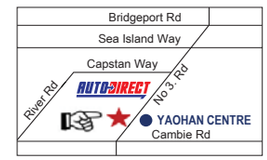

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Clothier accused of appropriation

FASHION

Design stolen off shaman's parka: Woman from Nunavut

A model walks the runway during the KTZ show on January 11, in London, England. Inset: The design from which the KTZ sweater was taken, according to Nunavut's Salome Awa.
GETTY IMAGES; INSET: MYSTIC SEAPORT PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Salome Awa says she was furious to discover that a U.K. fashion label had unveiled a sweatshirt with a design that looks nearly identical to one created by her great-grandfather.

But more than anger, the Nunavut woman said she felt shocked that her ancestor's unique design had been taken without permission.

"I went through all the garments and there it was: my great-grandfather's garment, designed exactly the same way as he envisioned," Awa, a CBC Nunavut morning show producer, told the Star in a telephone interview on Thursday morning.

"I was shocked, actually, because it's sacred."

Her great-grandfather was a shaman, Awa explained. He had asked his wife to make a unique parka with hands on the front to protect him from someone who might try to push him into the ocean and drown him.

Danish explorer Knud Rasmussen took a photo of her great-grandfather in the parka during his travels and visits with Inuit families in Canada's Arctic in the 1920s, Awa said.

The photo, which dates back to 1922, was published in the book Northern Voices: Inuit Writing in English.

"To wear it (the design) is almost like (a) mockery of my great-grandfather's spiritual well-being," Awa said. "There's no other garment like it anywhere else in this world."

London-based label KTZ did not respond to Torstar News Service's request for comment.

KTZ unveiled the sweater as part of its Fall 2015 men's collection and the company was selling the "shaman toweling sweatshirt" online for about $845 Cdn. Toronto-based shop CNTRBND is also selling it for $925.

KTZ says its clothes are known for their "raw energy and contemporary urban edge, but also for embracing ethnographic references and multiculturalism."

But the company has been accused of appropriating Indigenous designs in the past. Last year, Northern Cheyenne/Crow designer Bethany Yellowtail accused KTZ of using her designs without permission.

She told the Star she contacted an intellectual property lawyer about possible legal action, but that she would discuss the issue with her family members before making any decisions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EMPEROR HAUTE COUTURE

Woman offered upwards of $12K for nude Harper painting

When former bureaucrat Danielle Potvin first laid eyes on Stephen Harper's completely nude body, she knew she had to take him home.

A painting of him, that is.

"It's the best piece of fine art in Canada," said Potvin.

She describes it as "audacious" and "so interesting."

"It's such a strong image."

The piece shows a relaxed Harper lounging, with a discreet smile, on a chaise surrounded by a group of suited men and single woman, who is seen handing him what can only be assumed to be a cup of Tim Hortons coffee.

And now it's on sale — just in time for the holiday season.

Emperor Haute Couture, as it's called, made headlines in 2012 when artist Margaret Sutherland first sold it to Potvin.

Potvin originally bought the painting for $5,750. Now she's being offered upwards of $12,000 for the piece.

She's even received a call from someone in Nebraska looking to get their hands on it.

"People know this painting will be worth a lot more in a few years," said Potvin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Margaret Sutherland, left, and Danielle Potvin with that painting. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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PARIS ATTACKS

Citizens remain anxious: Experts

At a Paris train station, the zap of a pigeon getting electrocuted on the tracks is enough to send some jittery people scurrying for cover.

And in the aftermath of the devastating Nov. 13 attacks on Paris, the centre of Brussels has often been deserted as armed soldiers patrol tourist sites amid repeated government warnings that a terrorist attack is "serious and imminent."

Some experts say it will take months for Europeans to psychologically adapt to life after the Paris attacks and warn that some government measures intended to reassure people may backfire, creating instead the impression of cities under siege.

"We go about our daily lives and every so often they're punctuated by something outrageous like a terrorist attack on an average Friday night," said Dr. David Purves of the British Psychological Society. "After that shock, something that is highly statistically unusual may suddenly feel much more likely to happen."

They look like bad guys with their faces all covered even if they are maybe very nice.
Lotte Achterberg on the armed soldiers in Brussels

Purves said measures meant to reassure people, like machine-gun-toting soldiers and closed subways, might actually feel like the opposite.

"In a time of uncertainty, we may interpret these signs of safety instead as reasons to be fearful, like why would we need armed soldiers unless there was danger?"

Belgian university student Lotte Achterberg said she could certainly do without the now-ubiquitous soldiers guarding Brussels. "It's not a nice feeling to see them everywhere with their big guns," she said.

"People cannot be highly vigilant forever," said Neil Greenberg, a professor of military mental health at King's College London. Unless governments provide a better explanation of what's going on, he said Belgians' attentiveness may fade. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia slaps Turkey with trade sanctions

RETALIATION

Dispute over downed plane intensifies

A tug-of-war over a Russian warplane shot down by a Turkish fighter jet at the border with Syria escalated Thursday, with Moscow drafting a slew of economic sanctions against Turkey and the Turkish president saying on a defiant note that his military is ready to do the same if another air intrusion happens.

The spat reflected a clash of ambitions of two strongman leaders, neither of whom appeared willing to back down and search for a compromise.

Turkey shot down the Russian Su-24 military jet on Tuesday, insisting it had violated its airspace despite repeated warnings.

The incident marked the first time in half a century when a NATO member shot down a Russian plane, raising the threat of a military confrontation between the alliance and Moscow.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin denounced the Turkish action as a "treacherous stab in the back," and insisted that the plane was downed over the Syrian territory in violation of the international law.

"Until that moment, we haven't heard a clear apology from Turkey's top political leadership, or an offer to compensate for the damage or a promise to punish the criminals who committed that crime," he said in the Kremlin while receiving credentials from several ambassadors.

"It gives an impression that the Turkish leadership is deliberately driving the Russian-Turkish relations into a deadlock, and we regret that."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was in no mood to apologize, and warned that Ankara would act in the same way in case of another intrusion.

"Faced with the same violation today, Turkey would give the same response," Erdogan said.

"It's the country that carried out the violation which should question itself and take measures to prevent it from happening again, not the country that was subjected to a violation."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECORDINGS

Turkey has released audio recordings of what it says are the Turkish military's repeated warnings to the pilot of a Russian bomber before it was shot down at the border with Syria — audio that grows increasingly more agitated.

A Russian airman who survived the shoot-down denied veering into Turkey's airspace "even for a single second." Turkey insists the plane was in its airspace for 17 seconds.

GREECE TENSION MOUNTS AT NORTHERN BORDER A man kneels before a Macedonian police officer in an effort to cross the border, near the northern Greek village of Idomeni, Thursday. Scores of migrants stranded at Greece's northern border have clashed with police while trying to force their way into Macedonia. GIANNIS PAPANIKOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

U.S. should embrace 'generosity': Obama

President Barack Obama appealed anew for acceptance of Syrian refugees, saying "so much of our greatness comes from our generosity."

In his weekly radio address broadcast Thursday, Obama noted his commitment to accept an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees this year and argued that the policy is in keeping with U.S. tradition.

Obama compared Syrian refugees to the first Pilgrims who arrived in present-day Massachusetts on the Mayflower ship in 1620. Many of them separatists from the Church of England, the Pilgrims have come to symbolize the quest for religious freedom in America.

He said he has been "touched by the generosity of Americans who've written me letters and emails in recent weeks, offering to open their homes to refugees fleeing the brutality of ISIL."

Obama's plan to receive thousands of additional Syrian refugees has come under heavy criticism in Congress and has become a key part of the 2016 presidential campaign rhetoric. Some lawmakers, voicing concerns about homeland security, are pressing for legislation further tightening the conditions under which refugees can be admitted.

"Now, people should remember that no refugee can enter our borders until they undergo the highest security checks of anyone travelling to the United States," Obama said. "That was the case before Paris, and it's the case now. And what happened in Paris hasn't stopped Americans from opening their arms anyway."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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The cover of the children's book The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland's Good Fortune, by Irish illustrator P.J. Lynch. More Americans can trace their roots to Howland than to any other of the first pilgrims. CANDLEWICK PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pilgrim went on to populate U.S.

HISTORY

John Howland nearly drowned during voyage on Mayflower

John Howland may not be as famous as William Bradford, John Carver and Myles Standish, notable passengers on the Mayflower that landed in Massachusetts in 1620.

Yet Howland probably had a greater impact on the history of the United States than any of them. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are unaware that they owe their very existence to Howland as they celebrate Thanksgiving, a holiday that commemorates a feast shared between Native Americans and the Pilgrims of the Mayflower.

Howland boarded the ship as a servant of Carver, the first governor of the New Plymouth Colony, but he almost never made it to the New World. He fell overboard in the middle of the Atlantic during a gale but grabbed a trailing rope and was hauled back aboard by sailors using boat hooks. His remarkable story is the subject of a new children's book, The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland's Good Fortune, by Irish illustrator and author P.J. Lynch.

Howland and his wife, fellow Mayflower passenger Elizabeth Tilley, had 10 children and more than 80 grandchildren. Now, an estimated two million Americans can trace their roots to him.

> **To think, if he hadn't made it, I wouldn't even be here.**
> Gail Adams, a John Howland descendant

Howland's descendants include three presidents — Franklin Roosevelt, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush — as well as former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, poets Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, actors Alec Baldwin, Humphrey Bogart and Christopher Lloyd, and Mormon church founder Joseph Smith.

"The idea that the existence of all these people hinged on that one guy grabbing a rope in the ocean and holding on tight totally caught my imagination," Lynch said in a phone interview. "Many of these people have made America what it is." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Security alert after man jumps White House gates

A man draped in an U.S. flag climbed over the fence at the White House on Thursday, prompting a lockdown as the first family celebrated Thanksgiving.

CNN reported that the man was immediately apprehended. Armed security personnel were seen outside the White House after the incident. President Barack Obama and his wife and daughters were spending the holiday at the White House. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S.

Trump lashed for ridiculing reporter

An advocacy group is offering Donald Trump sensitivity training after the Republican presidential candidate appeared to mock a reporter with a disability.

Jay Ruderman of the Ruderman Family Foundation in Boston said Thursday that Trump should apologize to Serge Kovaleski of The New York Times and the public.

Kovaleski has a congenital condition that affects joint movement. In a speech Tuesday in South Carolina, Trump said: "Poor guy, you oughta see this guy," and gestured in a jerky fashion as if imitating Kovaleski's body movements.

Trump was challenging recollections by Kovaleski and many others about the 9-11 aftermath. Trump has made unsubstantiated claims that thousands of Muslims in New Jersey were seen celebrating the attacks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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UN to issue final Iran nuclear report

SECURITY

Official says assessment 'won't be black and white'

The UN atomic energy agency is preparing to wrap up a more than decade-long probe of alleged nuclear weapons work by Iran, but its report will stop short of delivering a judgment on whether the suspicions are valid, the agency's chief said Thursday.

The report by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency is meant to put the issue to rest after years of on-and-off attempts to investigate the allegations. The U.S. and its allies say Tehran conducted past research and development of such weapons. Iran says the accusations are based on false intelligence from its adversaries.

The issue has dominated IAEA meetings, contributed to UN Security Council resolutions against Iran and is now playing a role in determining whether sanctions against Tehran will be lifted under a nuclear deal that is expected to be implemented early next year.

But the comments by IAEA chief Yukiya Amano made clear that his assessment will contain enough grey zones to leave the question unresolved.

The report "won't be black and white," Amano told reporters outside a meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation board. Suggesting some questions remain unanswered, he described his report as a "jigsaw puzzle" for which his agency has "pieces."

While he said it was up to board members to decide whether to close the investigation on the basis of his report, diplomats briefed on the investigation said Thursday that outcome was likely.

Formally, the report will help determine whether Iran gets relief from sanctions in exchange for paring back its atomic activities under an overarching deal Tehran signed July 14 with six world powers.

Two diplomats said the U.S. and the five other powers that negotiated the nuclear deal with Iran were unlikely to be too critical, unwilling to risk jeopardizing that agreement. But expectations remain that Iran has continued either to deny the activities under investigation or insist they were part of peaceful nuclear research. They demanded anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the issue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, arrives for a board of governors meeting at the International Centre in Vienna, Austria, Thursday.
RONALD ZAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURKEY

Court orders journalists jailed for reports on arms smuggling

In new blow to media freedoms in Turkey, a court on Thursday ordered two prominent opposition journalists jailed pending trial on charges of willingly aiding an armed group and of espionage for revealing state secrets for their reports on alleged arms smuggling to Syria.

The court in Istanbul ruled that Cumhuriyet newspaper's editor-in-chief, Can Dundar, and the paper's Ankara representative, Erdem Gul, be taken into custody following hours of questioning.

In May, the Cumhuriyet paper published what it said were images of Turkish trucks carrying ammunition to Syrian militants.

The images reportedly date back to January 2014, when local authorities searched Syria-bound trucks, touching off a standoff with Turkish intelligence officials. Cumhuriyet said the images were proof that Turkey was smuggling arms to rebels in Syria.

The government had initially denied the trucks were carrying arms, maintaining that the cargo consisted of humanitarian aid. Some officials later suggested the trucks were carrying arms or ammunition destined to Turkmen kinsmen in Syria. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan suggested the same recently.

Dundar and Gul's detention comes amid deepening concerns over deteriorating conditions for journalists in Turkey, including a spike in prosecutions and violence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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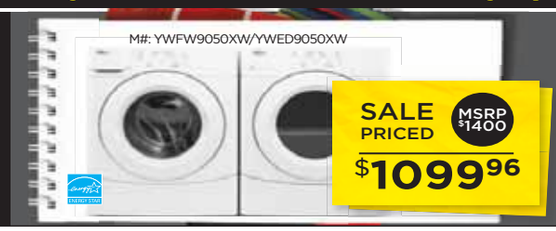

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Boats come to the rescue

SOUTH ASIA

Cab company sends rowers to save Indian flood victims

A taxi company in India has swapped cabs for boats, as it ramped up efforts to rescue flood victims in the southern city of Chennai last week.

Ola, a private taxi app similar to Uber, explained on Twitter that the company had been "ferrying people out from waterlogged areas" in the city after vehicles couldn't access flooded roads.

At least 175 people have died as heavy rainfall pounded Tamil Nadu and submerged parts of the state capital, Chennai, and the surrounding areas.

Schools, hospitals and homes are flooded, and more rain is expected later this week.

The idea for #OlaBoats appears to have started out as a social media joke, but quickly transformed into reality when Ola sent out its first rescue boats on Nov. 17.

The boats were manned by professional rowers and fishermen, who rescued people and provided food and drinking water for free, The Hindu reported.

The boats were equipped with two rowers and umbrellas and could ferry five to nine people per trip.

People in Chennai and across India commended the company's initiative.

"Now that's the only good news that has come out of Chennai amidst floods. Way to go," said Abhishek Jain on Twitter.

"Great job in Chennai. You help the people in distress and they will remember you. Kudos," Nilesh Rupapara added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Taxi app Ola has swapped cabs for boats in the flood-ravaged Indian city of Chennai. CONTRIBUTED/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **Now that's the only good news that has come out of Chennai amidst floods. Way to go.**
> Twitter user Abhishek Jain

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Ola boats in action. CONTRIBUTED/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Tunisia arrests 30 after suicide bombing

Tunisian authorities have detained 30 people suspected of having extremism links after a suicide bombing targeting presidential guards. They identified the bomber as a local street vendor.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement Thursday that forensic police identified the attacker as 27-year-old Houssam ben Hedi ben Miled Abdelli by his DNA. It said he was from a working-class neighbourhood on the edge of Tunis.

In a later statement, the ministry said it detained 30 people suspected of links to extremist groups and seized several weapons in 526 raids around the country over the past 24 hours. It didn't say whether any of the suspects had ties to the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boko Haram kills 16 in village attack: Witnesses

Suspected Boko Haram militants raided a village in southeastern Niger, killing 16 people and looting shops, witnesses said Thursday.

The attack occurred on Wednesday night in a village not far from the border with Nigeria, said Adam Boukarna, who runs a radio station in the nearby town of Diffa.

"The assailants arrived on motorbikes and opened fire on anything that moved before pillaging shops and other business," Boukarna said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangladesh mosque attacked by gunmen

At least five assailants opened fire Thursday on devotees during evening prayers at a Shiite mosque in northern Bangladesh, leaving one person dead and three others wounded, police said.

Bogra district police Chief Mohammed Asaduzzaman said by phone that the assailants fled after the attack, which occurred just after sunset at the mosque in Haripur village.

He said a mosque official in his 70s who led the prayers died from bullet injuries and the three others were being treated at a hospital.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Shiites are a minority in Sunni-majority Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority nation of 160 million people.

The country has been rocked this year by a series of attacks allegedly carried out by radical groups. Since February, four secular bloggers, a publisher and two foreigners — an Italian aid worker and a Japanese agriculture researcher — have been killed, raising concern that religious extremism is growing.

An Oct. 24 bomb attack on thousands of Shiite Muslims at an annual rally in Dhaka left a teenage boy dead and more than 100 others injured. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility, but authorities rejected the claim and blamed members of the banned local group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh.

Munirul Islam, a senior Detective Branch official, told reporters Thursday that police have arrested at least six members of the banned group in connection with the October attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE DETAILS

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accuses domestic Islamist groups along with the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its main Islamist ally, the Jamaat-e-Islami party, of carrying out attacks to destabilize the country for political gain.

A man injured in an attack on a Shiite mosque is carried for treatment in Bogra district, Bangladesh, on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A clown marches by heavily armed police standing guard during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York on Thursday. ANDRES KUDACKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sun, Snoopy and a ring of NYPD steel

MANHATTAN

Thanksgiving Day Parade under heavy police security

Giant balloons took to the clear, sunny sky over midtown Manhattan on Thursday for the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, with spectators lining up along the parade route and a heavy police presence keeping a watchful eye.

The parade, in its 89th year, included marching bands and floats to go along with Hello Kitty, Snoopy, Paddington and other giant balloons. The performers were expected to include Jordin Sparks, Shawn Mendes and Pat Benatar.

City officials have said there are no known, credible threats against New York following the recent attacks in Paris and a video purportedly produced by ISIL that contained video clips of Times Square. But Police Commissioner William Bratton said more than 2,500 officers will be stationed along the parade route for the Thanksgiving Day festivities — the largest number of officers ever at the event.

As the parade made its way through midtown Manhattan, helicopters flew overhead and officers stood on top of mobile command centre vans to watch the crowds. Police even stood on top of the marquee at Radio City Music Hall.

> **Never saw that before.**
>
> Tom Popp, on seeing police on top of Radio City

The parade is a traditional part of Thanksgiving, when Americans commemorate a 1621 feast shared by colonists known as Pilgrims and Native Americans in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Pamela and Tom Popp of Ridgefield, New Jersey said they've come to the city every year for the parade for at least 20 years.

"It's just a very special part of our holiday," Pamela Popp said. "We're very proud of New York City and this wonderful tradition."

Her husband said security was heavier than in past years. "I see the cops on top of Radio City," Tom Popp said. "Never saw that before."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS

Funeral for black man killed by police

Hundreds of people filled a Minneapolis church on Wednesday for the funeral of a black man whose death in a confrontation with police has sparked days of ongoing protests, while charges were pending against four men suspected in a shooting that wounded several of the protesters.

Impassioned speeches from pastors and Jamar Clark's relatives were occasionally interrupted by shouts and applause inside the cavernous Shiloh Temple International Ministries. Several relatives wore white T-shirts that read, "I matter," with Clark's picture on the back.

Programs also adorned with a photo of Clark described the 24-year-old as a man who "liked to swim, fish, listen to music, play basketball, be with family and take trips to Charlotte, North Carolina."

"I'm still hurt," his sister, Sharice Burns, told the packed church on the city's north side. "I'm still suffering. We need justice sooner rather than later."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON

Kids bullying redheads inspired by South Park

A statement from Melrose Public Schools outside Boston says seventh-graders were imitating an episode from the TV cartoon series South Park when they kicked redhead students last Friday.

The school's assistant principal apologized to the students who had been kicked and spoke to their parents. The school has reviewed surveillance tapes of the incident and has contacted police about the possibility of "appropriate action" being taken. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TV offer only valid at Intl MSRP. Offer(s) available on select new 2015/2016 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from November 3 to 30, 2015. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and trade upgrades available at extra cost. All others are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,715. $0 APR for 84 months on approved credit (OAC) on a new 2016 Sportage LX MT FWD (SP25LG) with a selling price of $24,632 is based on monthly payments of $284 for 84 months, at 0% with a $0 down payment and first monthly payment due at signing. Limited time offer. Dealer may sell or lease for less or may not participate in this offer. Lease offer is based on a new 2015 Optima Hybrid LX (OPTIMA) with a selling price of $24,752 and includes a cash discount of $7,000 including $6,000 cash discount and $1,000 ECO-Credit. Dealer may sell for less. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. Cash Purchase Price for the new 2015 Optima Hybrid LX AT (OPTIMA) is $24,752 and includes a cash discount of $7,000 including $6,000 cash discount and $1,000 ECO-Credit. Dealer may sell for less. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. Cash discounts vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. †Representative Leasing Example: Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC), on new 2015 Sorento 2.4L LX FWD (SR75AG) 2015 Optima LX AT (OPTIMA) with a selling price of $24,826.45 is based on monthly payments of $298 for 36 months at 1.9% APR for 60 months, $0 security deposit, $500 & $2,000 lease credit, $1,975 $500 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $14,440. Option to purchase at 56.05% of the term for $13,911.25. Offer valid on approved applications received from November 3, 2015 to November 30, 2015 at participating dealers. Dealer may sell or lease for less or may not participate in this offer. ‡Representative Leasing Example: Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC), on new 2016 Sorento 2.4L LX AWD (SR75AG) with a selling price of $29,995 is based on monthly payments of $292 for 60 months at 1.9% APR for 60 months, $0 security deposit, $500 & $2,000 lease credit, $1,975 $500 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $16,020. Option to purchase at 45.00% of the term for $13,496.25. Offer valid on approved applications received from November 3, 2015 to November 30, 2015 at participating dealers. Dealer may sell or lease for less or may not participate in this offer. ◊Based on a new 2016 Sorento 2.4L AWD (SR75AG) with an approx. value of $2,500/$3,000/$3,000 AWD credit and $1,000/$2,000/$2,000 ECO-Credit/Loyalty/Conquest cash deductible from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. Offer valid on approved applications received from November 3, 2015 to November 30, 2015. Dealer may sell or lease for less or may not participate in this offer. ◊◊Based on a new 2016 Sorento 2.4L LX FWD (SR75AG) with a selling price of $25,995 is based on monthly payments of $67 for 60 months at 1.9% APR for 60 months, $0 security deposit, $500 & $2,000 lease credit, $1,975 $500 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $4,020. Option to purchase at 56.05% of the term for $11,696.75. Offer valid on approved applications received from November 3, 2015 to November 30, 2015 at participating dealers. 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ADVICE

Treat donations like an investment

More than nine in 10 Canadians follow the example of reformed miser Ebenezer Scrooge and give to charity every year, but experts advise noting his tightwad ways and treating those charitable donations like an investment.

Philanthropy professionals and charity watchdogs say that as the holiday season nears and the airwaves fill with messages of altruism, you should still analyze your chosen charities the same way you would research the purchase of mutual funds or property.

Financial adviser Kate Bahen, managing director of watchdog group Charity Intelligence Canada, says key things to look for include whether the charity's financial statements are audited and up-to-date, if the charity has an independent oversight board, and if it spends more on programs than administration and fundraising.

"People need to look at that giving as an investment," she says. "If they could bring that business brain to the giving table, I think that's where we would see such huge change in Canada for the good."

Financial planner Cynthia Kett says it's best to form long-term relationships with charities that share your values, instead of doling out smaller gifts throughout the year.

When it comes to taxes, Kett says it's important to understand the nuances of the charitable giving tax credit.

Because the first $200 has a lower credit, married couples can save a little money by combining their donations on one return and having the higher-income spouse claim the credit.

Kett says Canadians should report their charitable donations every year, but can hold off on claiming for up to five years in order to maximize their returns.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **We often have a tendency to make donations on the fly.**
> Cynthia Kett, financial planner

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Protesters carry signs featuring the image of Turing Pharmaceuticals' CEO Martin Shkreli in front the building that houses the company's offices in New York, during a protest in October of pharmaceutical drug pricing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Turing reneges on cutting drug's price

PHARMACEUTICALS

Rival's 99-cent version selling well

After weeks of criticism from patients, doctors and other drugmakers for hiking a life-saving medicine's price more than fifty-fold, Turing Pharmaceuticals is reneging on its pledge to cut the $750-per-pill price.

Instead, the small biotech company is reducing what it charges hospitals, by up to 50 per cent, for its parasitic infection treatment, Daraprim. Most patients' co-payments will be capped at $10 or less a month. But insurers will be stuck with the bulk of the $750 tab. That drives up future treatment and insurance costs.

$750
The per-pill cost of Daraprim, Turing's parasitic infection treatment.

Daraprim is the preferred treatment for a rare parasitic infection, toxoplasmosis, which mainly threatens people with weak immune systems, and pregnant women, because it can kill their baby.

Turing's move comes after a pharmacy that compounds prescription drugs for individual patients, Imprimis Pharmaceuticals, started selling a custom-made version for 99 cents per capsule. Those sales weren't a factor in Turing's pricing strategy, chief marketing officer Nancy Retzlaff said Wednesday.

Imprimis CEO Mark Baum said Wednesday orders are pouring in for its version of Daraprim from doctors, and the company has dispensed more than 2,500 capsules since Oct. 22. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COMPETITION

Bureau calls for relaxing taxi rules

The Competition Bureau says local regulations on the taxi industry need to be overhauled to deal with new competition from alternatives like the ride-hailing service Uber.

New competitors have gained market share by undercutting the fixed prices of existing cabs and skirting regulations for the industry.

The bureau says that has created an uneven playing field, and cities and provinces should balance the scales by easing rules on taxis rather than looking to increase regulations.

The Competition Bureau said regulators should ease price controls and allow taxi fares to be adjusted to fit with demand, remove the cap on the number of taxi plates and let additional qualified drivers work for hire, and provide incentives for drivers to operate accessible vehicles in underserved areas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SURVEY

Nearly 40 per cent fought to pay bills this past year

Nearly 40 per cent of Canadians have struggled to cover their household expenses at least once in the past year, a new survey from Manulife Bank suggests.

Lines of credit were the most popular solution for those who came up short, with 33 per cent reporting that they accessed one the last time they were short on funds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Weekend, November 27-29, 2015

Bird bath blues
Scientists can't explain why water-loving British starlings have been drowning in large groups for the past 20 years.

READERS RESPOND: MELITA'S STORY

In the Nov. 25 issue of Metro, one of our editors shared a personal tale of fleeing to Canada at the age of nine, after her father was imprisoned at a concentration camp in Bosnia and Herzegovina simply for being Muslim. Dozens of readers have reached out with good wishes — and emotional refugee and immigration stories of their own.

12 Wednesday, November 25, 2015 Canada metro NEWS

'We were one of the lucky ones'

As the country prepares to welcome thousands of Syrian refugees, a Metro editor recalls how her family built a happy life in Canada after escaping a war zone

Melita Kuburas Metro Canada

Bosnian refugee tells of odyssey to freedom

Journey through history

From the archives ...

Welcoming refugees is very generous of Canada, and of Canadians, but I can assure you: refugees are not freeloading.

"I think this will open a lot of readers' eyes"
Hi Melita,

Every day, I commute and read Metro in the morning. Most of the times, I scan headlines and doze off to music I have playing. But this morning, I was glued to your story, and I really appreciate how you have shared your own personal experience. I think this will open a lot of readers' eyes to the current refugee issue.

Shuang Shan

As an immigrant myself, although I came under much better circumstances, I was very moved by your family's story.

"It is a welcome antidote to all the recent negativity"
Melita,

Thank you for your fine article. It is a welcome antidote to all the recent negativity surrounding Syrian refugees and Muslims. As an immigrant myself, although I came here under much better circumstances, I was very moved by your family's story.

Keep up the good work,
David Bednar

"I am so glad that you were able to survive"
Good morning Melita,

While I have been a supporter of the Liberals' plan to bring in the 25,000 refugees, I will readily admit that I haven't spent too much time thinking about the individuals truly affected, who are waiting to be screened and authorized by the UN and Canadian government.

Your story provides a true example of how difficult it must've been for your family to transition to life in Canada. I am so glad that you and your family were able to survive and thrive in this country, and it makes me so grateful for what my family has really taken for granted.

Just know that your story has touched at least one person today, though I have no doubt that it will touch the hearts of millions.

Take care,
Jennifer Hiltz

"I am the son of a political refugee from Hungary"
Dear Melita,

Many thanks for the nice article. The front-page pictures hit hard in a good way. I am the son of a political refugee from Hungary who refused to go back to the communist ways after the failed revolution of 1956. The pictures of your dad are a great resemblance to my dad, and they brought me to tears. He has been gone now for almost 12 years, but he was the most patriotic Canadian I know. He married my mom, a French-Canadian, and raised us three boys on a great work ethic and a huge respect for democracy. When I enlisted as an army reservist with the Governor General's Foot Guards (Yes, those soldiers on Parliament Hill) to assist with paying my way through four years of college, he beamed with pride.

I could say much more, and so could you. I am sure enough of a heartfelt story is there to provide material for a book!

Merci beaucoup! Thanks again! Köszönöm szépen!

Michel Imre Zoltan Joseph Asbóth

"I hope and pray that other refugees succeed"
Hi Melita,

Thank you for sharing your refugee story. Your parents are so courageous and strong. I'm sure it was incredibly difficult for them and huge sacrifices were made, but they did it for you and your brother.

I can't imagine the difficulty of risking your life with your children, and even the days and nights spent in whichever place you were allowed to stop or rest. It was important that you shared this story, since many people don't realize what immigrants have gone through.

Me and my family also immigrated to this country, and we all know for a fact that we have to work or study hard in order to prove our worth to Canadian society, most especially to those who claim they are the "true Canadians."

I am really fascinated by tales of migration and refugee stories, and I am so pleased that everything worked out well for your family.

I hope and pray that other refugees succeed in their new homes and new lives. I always believe in humanity's faith, hope and compassion despite the recent conflicts and stigma of terrorism haunting the world.

Thanks and regards,
Czarjeff Laban

Melita Kuburas is an associate managing editor at Metro. You can read her story at metronews.ca. She can be reached at melita.kuburas@metronews.ca.

LETTERS HAVE BEEN CONDENSED

metroview

If we think outside the mailbox, we can build real community

Jason Logan
Metro Toronto

Can we talk about community mailboxes?

By now you've no doubt picked your side, either with the robot-loving erstwhile PM and his ugly, grey mailbox banks, or with the more robust-haired champion of door-to-door delivery.

But the election is over and the outcome is clear: Community mailboxes are out. So why now talk of sides? Don't we have more pressing concerns? The phase-out of home delivery has been scrapped in mid-flow: in 2014, Canada Post converted 100,000 addresses to community boxes; in 2015, it had planned to do 900,000 more. At least 460,000 of those conversions were already underway, meaning there must be tens of thousands of community mailboxes sitting in warehouses, destined for the garbage heap and the "sunk costs" column.

What if "community mailboxes" isn't an oxymoron?

Don't get me wrong. I, like you, have seen the prophylactic maple-leaf decal and the back-angled roof meant to protect the boxes from snow and rain while making no such accommodation for users. They don't just look like they were designed by a committee of engineers; they actually were. Plus, I love my mail carrier.

Here's the thing, though: In an era of Facetime and delivery drones, communication is at a crossroads, if not a crisis. This should be an opportunity to rethink, not sentimentalize.

I recently met with the governor general at the Centre for Social Innovation in Toronto, and he noted that when a group of people picks up mail in a central place, they create a little community. I led a workshop this summer on this point: how to turn these boxes into community assets. Eventually we were contacted by a Canada Post representative, who said, "We are listening." But listening is not enough.

In urban centres and suburbs, where the community-mailbox fight has been fiercest, there remains, despite bars and bookstores, a need for places to gather 'round. A shared box could become a mini town square: a place to pick up news, ideas and seeds for the garden.

Or what if we got rid of the boxes but kept the idea of central mail pickup? What if packages flowed in and out of your local coffee shop? What if Canada Post stores sold vintage stamps, postcards and stationery? What if the postal workers were trained in community policing and home care? What if getting the mail meant leaving your house, looking up from your phone and finding common ground?

"Stop right there!" you say. We can't afford to play and experiment. I say we can't afford not to. It's with what-ifs that we start a process of thinking outside the slanty-roofed box and remaking our country.

My name is Jason. I did not vote for Harper, and I'm kind of into community mailboxes.

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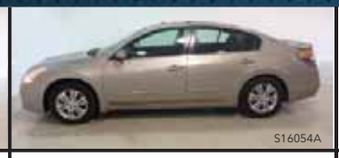
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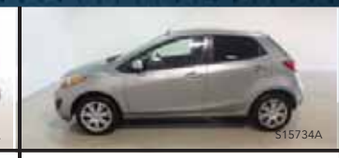
MARKET VALUE $18,995 SAVE $3,108 SALE PRICE $15,887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BB3919

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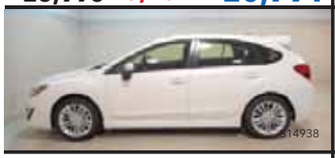
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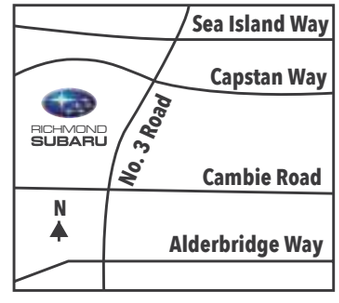

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metro WEEKEND
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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Radcliffe keeps his ego in check

CELEBRITY

Actor doesn't see his status as actually being about him

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Harry Potter no more: Daniel Radcliffe stars as Igor in Victor Frankenstein, a dynamic and thrilling twist on a legendary tale.
HANDOUT

MOVIE RATINGS
by Richard Crouse

Creed ★★★★
The Good Dinosaur ★★★
Victor Frankenstein ★★★
Trumbo ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

At the 2012 Canadian premier of The Woman in Black a young woman yelled, "I love you!" as Daniel Radcliffe and I took the stage to introduce the film.

"I love you too," he replied with a smirk. "But I think we should see other people."

The audience laughed but probably missed the double meaning of his comment. For ten years Radcliffe was the face of Harry Potter, one of the biggest grossing movie franchises ever. Potter ended in 2011 (for Radcliffe, anyway) and the actor has moved on, and hopes his audience will follow along.

This week he's taking on another classic character, one played in the past by everyone from Bela Lugosi to Marty Feldman. In Victor Frankenstein he transcends Igor's traditional, "Yes master," function to become the movie's moral compass and emotional core. A reimagining of the Frankenstein story that focuses on the men rather than the monster, it's a change of pace from an actor who likes to shake it up, career-wise.

"I want to try my hand at as many things as possible," he told me in 2014. "Having played one character for a very long time, that builds up in you a desire to play a number of different characters and do as much different work as you can. I like that you can't predict what my next thing is going to be."

Since Potter wrapped he has kept audiences guessing. From the Gothic horror of Woman in Black and The F Word's light romance to a biographical look at the Beat Generation in Kill Your Darlings and the twisted morality of Horns, the only predictable thing about his career is its unpredictability.

"It's about finding out what I'm good at, finding out which things I prefer doing because I've only done Potter up until a few years ago, so now this period is really me going, 'If I had my choice.'

Being that I do have a semblance of control over my career, — which most actors my age don't — I feel I might not always have this opportunity to try loads of different things."

Radcliffe credits working with the likes of Alan Rickman, Gary Oldman and David Tennant on the Potter films with giving him some perspective on how to manage his career.

"The defining feature of Alan, Gary, David and many more that I've worked with, is that they never want to stop learning," Radcliffe told me during an interview for The Women in Black.

"They never feel they are finished. Alan Rickman is constantly trying to get better and refined. When you see that in someone who is A) Brilliant and B) 30 years older than you, it's very inspiring to see they have gone through their whole careers and never been satisfied."

Radcliffe has perspective on where he'd like his career to go, but what about the fame that came along with playing Harry Potter? The next day after The Woman in Black premier I asked him about the screaming fans that greeted him and what that does to his ego.

"The thing you have to remind yourself is that it's not about me. It's about the fact that I played this character who became beloved. Anyone who took on this character would be getting this reaction. When I'm home, smoking a cigarette and it's cold and I'm eating half a pizza — you have to take a picture of yourself then and play it to yourself when you're on the red carpets and go, 'Yeah, you're not all that.'"

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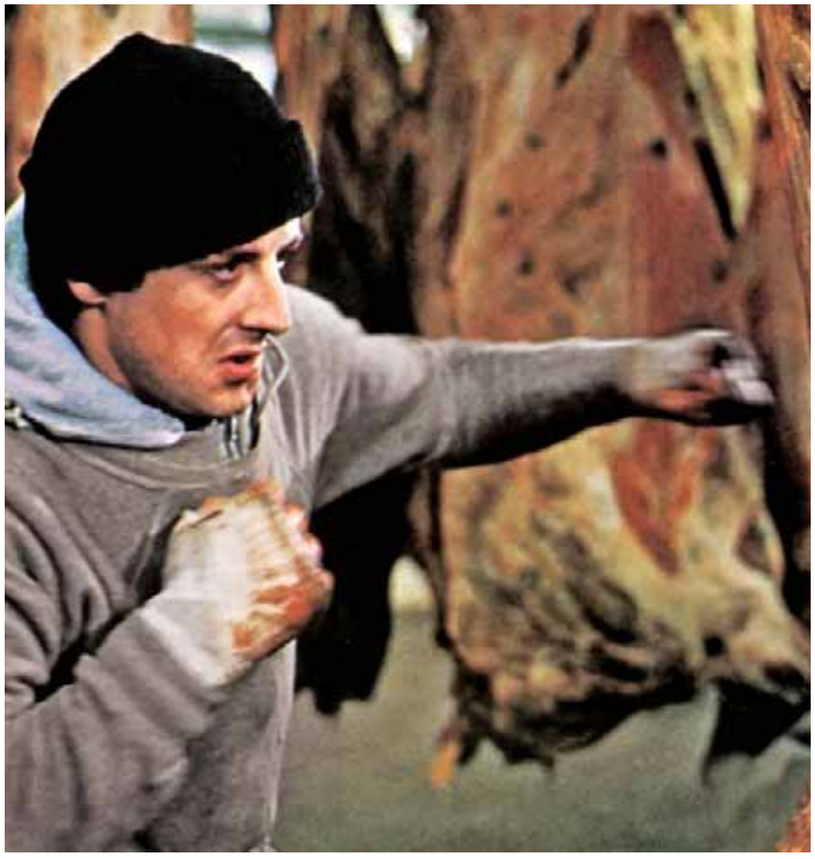
IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN METRO RANKS ROCKY

The Rocky series gets a semi-spinoff with Creed. And for the first time, Sylvester Stallone's storied underdog isn't the centrepiece. This one follows Apollo Creed's son, Adonis, with Rocky as his mentor. So how does it stack up to the others? Here are our five favourite Rocky films. MATT PRIGGE/METRO NEW YORK



1 Rocky (1976)

Along with Jaws the year prior and Star Wars the year after, the first Rocky is often credited with helping break the gritty, downer streak that had come to somewhat (if by no means entirely) dominate Hollywood in the '70s. But it's still pretty downer and gritty, and it doesn't end with our palooka pugilist even winning. What its many, many knockoffs get wrong is that it's not just about the melodrama and a cheer-able close. Sylvester Stallone's Rocky really has his hills and valleys before he hits the mountaintop. Also often neglected: Stallone's performance, which is so lived-in, so lively, so genuinely lovable that it's easy to take for granted.

2 Creed (2015)

The first movie to feature Stallone's Rocky without being written (and in four cases, directed) by Stallone, Creed is technically fan-fiction, courtesy Fruitvale Station maker Ryan Coogler. But it balances honouring the classics with being its own thing, feeling fresh even when it's pounding out a classic training montage or a big climactic bout. Michael B. Jordan's Adonis — the aspiring boxer son of dead-and-gone Rocky rival-turned-bud Apollo Creed — may be the lead, but Rocky doesn't just pass the torch. Even after four decades, Stallone is able to find new notes inside a character who has aged from Rocky from the block to a superstar, back to a guy who's back on the block, mourning the many who've passed on.

3 Rocky III (1982)

The sequels — before the genuinely melancholic revival Rocky Balboa in 2005 — turned increasingly silly and outsized to match a star who himself turned silly and outsized. The third is at least deeply entertaining, no less because it has a villain — Mr. T's Clubber Lang — whose personality is so big and charismatic he threatens to hijack the entire franchise. At least Stallone the director had evolved. He was among the first in Hollywood to adopt a punchier MTV esthetic to mainstream filmmaking (and thus made the movies shorter by about 20 minutes). As Matt Zoller Seitz illustrated in a video piece about Stallone's filmmaking, the difference between the sleepier '70s training montages of II and the jazzed-up one in III is chasmic.

4 Rocky Balboa (2006)

The '90s were spotty for Stallone, and the first half of the '00s were abysmal, the star bottoming out with DTV fare like Avenging Angelo and the disastrous (and disastrously titled) Eye See You. You could cynically say he was just being cynical when he dusted Rocky off (and then Rambo, too), but he took the return seriously, in part because he wanted to give a noble send-off to a character who'd gone out like a chump in the little-loved Rocky V. Balboa is in many ways stubborn: at times sleepy and old-fashioned, even spotty, but it's also deeply felt. Even its appropriations of the original, including the same ending, feel sincere, devoted to a character who feels as real as Stallone himself, if not more so.

5 Rocky II (1979)

In the first Rocky, Balboa felt so vivid it would be a shame to let him go. Though technically Rocky II is a rematch movie, pitting him back against Weathers' Apollo, it also seriously considers what would happen to a Regular Joe like Rocky. After an initial flush of fame and money, he winds up forgotten round. It's not a perfect film, and the protracted Adrian-in-a-coma stretch is one twist too many.

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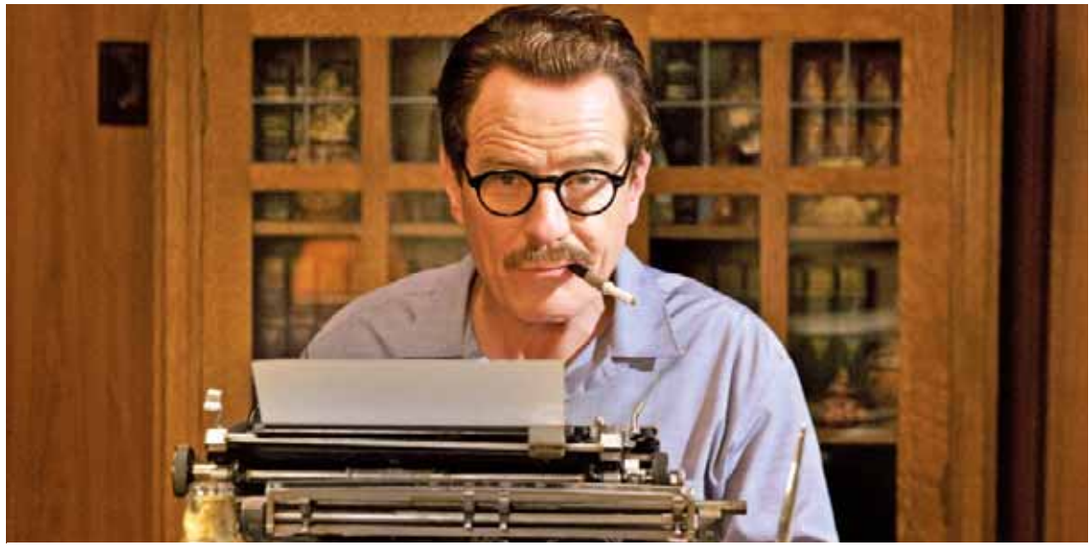
The communist who didn't name names

NEW FILM

Bryan Cranston talks Dalton Trumbo's moral stance

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Bryan Cranston plays blacklisted Hollywood writer Dalton Trumbo in Trumbo, opening this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

For a brief time Dalton Trumbo was the highest paid writer in Hollywood, which also meant he was the highest paid writer in the world.

He was a family man, a wealthy and proud American communist whose career was sidelined by The Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideals.

A new film called Trumbo, starring Breaking Bad's Bryan Cranston, tells the story of how the Academy Award winning screenwriter was reduced to penning scripts for b-movies like The Alien and the Farm Girl.

"Under the first amendment you have the right to free speech and Trumbo felt very strongly about that," says Cranston.

"He thought it was un-American and unconstitutional for the House Un-American Activities Committee to hold these hearings and demand under threat of contempt of Congress that people answer these questions.

The questions were things like: Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party? And, if so, to save yourself, renounce it now and tell us who else was a member.

The committee wanted these people to give names so they could go after more people.

"It's fundamentally wrong and he felt that was wrong and unconstitutional to ask that question," says Cranston of Trumbo's reaction.

Trumbo didn't name names and paid a heavy price, losing his lofty Hollywood perch and almost his family.

"In a way I relate to Trumbo," says Cranston, but admits he's not sure what he would do if his career was ever placed in a similar kind of jeopardy.

"What would you do if they subpoenaed you and said, 'We want to know who else likes baseball? Who is it?' Would you point the finger at other people who found enjoyment out of playing baseball?

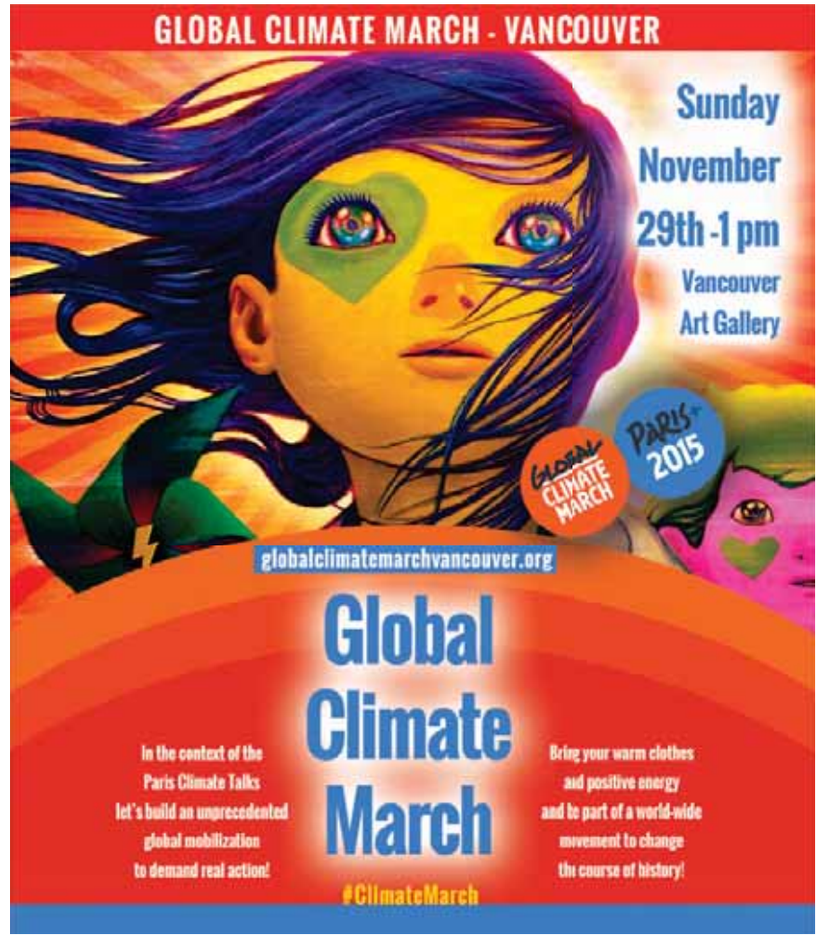
"Of course I would love to think I would be honourable and not do it, but I have to be honest and say, that's a hypothetical. I think I would be resistant to that pressure and perhaps even pay the price, but do I know for sure? No.

"I don't know for a certainty because I'm not faced with it."

After wrapping his five-season career-making run as Breaking Bad's Walter White, Cranston has kept busy, winning a Tony Award for playing Lyndon B. Johnson on Broadway in All the Way and has eight films in various stages of completion. He made time for Trumbo because "the story itself is brilliant and that is the first thing I look for," but admits he's gotten picky about the parts he plays.

"I don't want to now take a job for money. I take jobs because I'm attracted to them by the creative element or because it challenges me in some way and my agents are incentivized to work out the best deal they can.

"I don't want to portray this idea that I'm just about the art. I've been poor and I've been rich and rich is better."



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Radcliffe, McAvoy on new starts

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN

Actors reflect on God, creating life and fresh beginnings

Luba Egorova
Metro | New York

Daniel Radcliffe, left, and James McAvoy star in Victor Frankenstein, opening this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

In Victor Frankenstein, James McAvoy and Daniel Radcliffe join a long tradition of actors, usually British (or Scottish), playing Mary Shelley's mad scientist and his assistant. But they are the first to play with this dynamic: Instead of Frankenstein's lowly, hunchbacked helper, Igor is a dandy and a medical genius in his own regard. It also allowed the two actors to goof around on the set of a particularly nutty what-if.

This is your first time working together but you seem to have a mutual admiration. So what was your relationship like on set?
James McAvoy: When I have to work with people I don't like, and I think they are really horrible. I generally never argue with them either. We got on really well. There was no arguing.

Daniel Radcliffe: Yeah. I think that the image people have of actors being like constantly at war with each other isn't generally the case.

What is your relationship with science? What grades did you get at school in physics and chemistry?
M: I didn't take physics. But I did take chemistry and biology for a very short time. And in chemistry, I think I got a C, and in biology a B-. And then when I grew old enough to choose subjects I would specialize in, I dropped them both and took English and music. I always enjoyed science at school and I enjoy hearing scientists and talk about science. But I'm definitely glad I don't have to learn it or do it.

> **The nice thing about being an actor is that on every single job, it's like a clean slate — a new director, new crew, maybe even a new country.** James McAvoy

We are all going to die someday. Would you like to be raised from the dead by some genius?
R: Yeah, as long as I'm the only one. (Laughs) And he won't do it to everybody, so that there are lots of dead walking around. I'd like to think about myself as special.

Creating life is like playing God. Do you believe in God? Have you ever wanted to challenge God?
M: Yeah.

R: No.

M: Even people with great faith and those who have a close relationship to God challenge him, like his son. We all challenge things we believe.

Victor is challenging God. "I can do it better" — that's what he's saying. There is an idea of god-creator and the idea of faith. We are moving towards it every day, trying to become people. It's an everyday life. And that is what the Frankenstein story is about.

At the beginning of the film, Daniel's character doesn't have a name. Do you know this feeling? Have you ever wanted to start anew?
R: As actors we put a mask on and become nobody and anonymous in that way. In real life, you often don't want to be well known nor famous, and sometimes I remember I didn't want to be an actor any more.

M: The nice thing about being an actor is that on every single job, it's like a clean slate — a new director, new crew, may be even a new country, new language, all that kind of stuff.

And you kind of go, "Alright, that last job was a f— ing nightmare."

Maybe I wasn't who I wanted to be or wasn't at my best. But what is great about acting is that you are not pretending to be someone else but try to be your better self.

CHRISTMAS FILMS

How to make a holiday favourite

The test of a truly great Christmas movie is not in its opening weekend, it's in the years that follow. It's with that understanding that Love the Coopers writer Steven Rogers will evaluate how his ensemble family flick does, noting it's the film's afterlife that will really determine whether he has a hit.

"Absolutely (making an enduring favourite is) what you aspire to," says Rogers in a recent interview from Los Angeles, listing some of the Christmas-themed films that have become personal staples over the years.

"I remember watching It's a Wonderful Life when I was really young for the first time and just going around to everyone saying, 'Do people know about this?' I thought it was the most remarkable movie."

Hollywood tries to create a new holiday classic year after year, and there's a bevy of contenders this season including the Seth Rogen comedy The Night Before and the upcoming horror flick Krampus. Meanwhile, the Canadian spine-chiller A Christmas Horror Story continues a theatrical roll-out to Edmonton, Ottawa and Saskatoon on Dec. 11 in addition to its recent DVD release. But Scrooged scribe Mitch Glazer says it's not easy to craft a holiday tale, noting it can easily veer into saccharine territory if you're not careful.

"You don't want to be cynical and sentimental — meaning manipulative in a crass way — but you are dealing with the Christmas season," says Glazer, who scored a holiday classic with his 1988 adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel A Christmas Carol, starring Bill Murray as a pompous TV boss.
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LAWSUIT

Porsche being sued in Paul Walker's death

Paul Walker's father is suing Porsche for negligence and wrongful death Wednesday over the 2013 accident that killed the Fast & Furious star.

Walker's father, who is the executor of his son's estate, filed the lawsuit claiming that the Porsche Carrera GT that his son was riding in lacked safety features that could have saved the actor's life. The lawsuit cites features included in other pending lawsuits against the automaker over the crash that might have saved the actor's life, including a stability control system, side-door reinforcements and a breakaway fuel line to help prevent the car from bursting into flames after a collision.

Walker was on a break from filming the seventh film in the Fast & Furious franchise when he was killed. He was riding in the Carrera GT driven by friend and business associate Roger Rodas when the car spun out of control, struck three trees and burst into flames on a street in Santa Clarita, Calif. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Rodas' widow, Kristine, who has a pending claim against Porsche in federal court, also filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the carmaker in state court on Wednesday.

An after-hours message sent to Porsche seeking comment was not immediately returned.

The car company has denied in other lawsuits, including one filed by the actor's daughter, that it is responsible for Walker's death.

On Nov. 12, Porsche stated in a court filing that the Carrera GT had been altered and improperly maintained and those factors contributed to the deaths of Walker and Rodas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This April 29, 2011, file photo, shows Paul Walker in Rome during Fast and Furious 5 photo call. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Revenant shoot a feat

Leonardo DiCaprio in The Revenant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILDERNESS EPIC

Director, star discuss brutal challenges of making the film

Filming the harrowing wilderness epic The Revenant was like "rock climbing without a rope," director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (Birdman) told a crowd at one of the first public screenings of the film. "There is no way down," Inarritu said. "You have to go up or you die. There was no choice for us."

After the credits rolled and the audience stood up to cheer, Inarritu was joined on the Samuel Goldwyn Theatre stage at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences by star Leonardo DiCaprio and other members of his filmmaking team, who braved a brutal British Columbia winter to shoot the film this past year. He put the final touches on the film last week for its limited release on Dec. 25 followed by a nationwide expansion in January.

Set in 1823, The Revenant, based on a 2002 novel by Michael Punke, follows Hugh Glass (DiCaprio) and a team of fur trappers on an expedition cut short by a vicious ambush — the first scene that they shot. Soon after, Hugh is mauled by a bear and left for dead by his fellow frontiersman. He wills himself to survive and endeavours to enact revenge on those who have wronged him.

"This is a very linear, straightforward, brilliantly simplistic screenplay... we wanted to find the poetry in between that," DiCaprio said of his performance, which requires very little dialogue for a 151 minute movie. "It was about us immersing ourselves in nature and putting ourselves as close as we could to the struggle of these people and finding the through-line in that process."

That immersion wasn't exactly a pleasant experience all of the time. Shooting The Revenant was a feat unlike that of any other film, with elaborate rehearsals and preparation months out only to have minutes to shoot on the day.

"It's all a beautiful blur to me," DiCaprio said, likening executing Inarritu's long shots to performing theatre every day. "You have to rehearse meticulously and then it's a mad, intense scramble to capture this magic light, this precious hour and a half."

The tension of getting the shot right translates into the movie and the performances, DiCaprio said and was a bonding element between the cast and crew.

"This is the most difficult film, I think, that any of us have ever done." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scaredy-dino mirrors the director's own fears

The Good Dinosaur marks Pixar artist Peter Sohn's directorial debut. CONTRIBUTED

PETER SOHN

Young dino finds out what he's made, as the director did

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

When Peter Sohn joined Pixar Studios 15 years ago as a story artist on Finding Nemo, he would've never dreamed that he'd someday be directing his very own movie. Even now, with his debut family epic The Good Dinosaur, he's quick to give credit to the animation empire.

"People at Pixar — they really support you," said Sohn in Toronto about his quick rise through various departments at the animation house. "I remember working in L.A. and when you were done with a project, you were laid off. That's not the case at Pixar — once you're done with a project, you're able to move to another project (and) it becomes more about doing your best."

For Sohn, his finest work included important contributions to such box-office hits as The Incredibles and Monsters University — not to mention lending voice work to supporting characters in such films as Oscar-winner Ratatouille.

"In the story department, you're always pitching your scenes so you're doing the voices," admitted Sohn about how he stumbled into voice work as well as an animation. "It does give you a lot of learning too (for) directing other people."

The truth is, The Good Dinosaur relies heavily on Sohn's personal experiences as well as his professional success. Set within the premise that dinosaurs never went extinct, Sohn's feature follows the Jurassic journey of a stray Apatosaurus trying to overcome his fears while trekking home with a young Neanderthal amigo.

"It didn't set out to be a parallel but it became that," admitted Sohn. Like most good fantasy, the film's themes echo real life. After all, Arlo the Apatosaurus's challenge to find out what he's really made of mirrors Sohn's struggles with his own self-confidence as a young Korean immigrant artist in America.

"When fear stops me from doing what I need to do; when I feel like I'm not worth anything (and) I'm trying to find a way to get through it," explained Sohn. "It was always the love of movies and the love of my family and people around me — there was always that answer. What a simple concept — you can't get rid of fear but you can always get through it."

EYES HAVE IT

It's all in the pupils

Part of Pixar's success has been by anthropomorphizing animals in their animated hits. As Sohn explains, much of that is in humanizing the eyes.

"(We) have charts on eyes and how to break down an eyebrow, pupil size, placement of pupil," said the longtime Pixar and Disney filmmaker.

"I can't tell you how much you study the eyes and find gestures of thoughtfulness."

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

‘If all of the people who hate Ishtar had seen it,’ director Elaine May said in 2006, ‘I would be a rich woman today.’

It’s not often that you say to your partner, “Honey, how about we watch Ishtar tonight!”

Even unlikelier? The response: “The 1987 critical and commercial flop starring Dustin Hoffman and Warren Beatty and written and directed by Elaine May? Uh, yes, please!”

Let me explain how we got there: After passing back and forth last Sunday’s New York Times Magazine cover story, The Women of Hollywood Speak Out by Maureen Dowd, we were puzzled. Not by the infuriating stats — only 1.9 per cent of the 100 top grossing films from 2013 and 2014 were directed by women, for example — but by the conflicting thesis and conclusion.

There’s nostalgia for a time when old Hollywood churned out roles for complicated, messy women — when “Hollywood moguls actually cared about art.” There’s admiration for women, like Transparent’s Jill Soloway and Girls’ Lena Dunham, who are making female-driven shows; praise for producers who are championing women’s voices and stories; and lamentations by the likes of Penny Marshall for studios’ love of Superman and Batman.

Yes, yes and yes! I thought. Hollywood doesn’t want you pulling up a chair at their buffet of insipid entertainment, ladies? Then start cooking up something new and improved!

But then, the story ends with a 35-year-old female director asking “Why can’t I direct Superman?”

So the solution for more female driven projects is to have a woman helm another Superman? That will solve the gender imbalance in Hollywood? Won’t that just reinforce the infantilizing trends that seem to dominate North American culture?

“Joining men in the race to the bottom in terms of the culture might be equitable,” my partner Simon argued, “but it’s not enlightened. If women aspire towards parity in the Hollywood superhero genre, I’m not so sure I’d call it an achievement.”

But it was a quote from a young female director about women not being able to recover after a flop the way male directors do that turned light bulbs on over our heads: “These dudes, man,” Leslye Headland, who “wants to be a Martin Scorsese” — and not just a female version — told Dowd. “Spielberg and Cassavetes and Woody Allen have all made some unwatchable movies. But it’s Elaine May and Ishtar you remember. It’s not Elaine May’s fault. Poor Elaine.”

Although post-Ishtar she’s written some superb scripts, including Primary Colours and the Birdcage, May hasn’t directed a movie since.

“If all of the people who hate Ishtar had seen it,” May said in 2006, “I would be a rich woman today.”

So, that’s how we got to Ishtar, which we’d never seen. And guess what? We loved it. (Martin Scorsese does, too.) The film, about two hilariously talentless lounge singers who perform in Morocco and get involved in a plot to overthrow the government in the fictional neighbouring country of Ishtar, was far funnier than our controversial dinner.

I said I’d bring home falafel. Simon said falafel isn’t Moroccan. I said no kidding. But Ishtar isn’t even a real place so we can eat whatever we want. Just as long as we tip our hats to Elaine May.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV’s The Social.

FILM BRIEF

Rock the Kasbah year’s biggest box-office bomb

According to Forbes, the comedy vehicle Rock The Kasbah starring the usually hugely bankable Bill Murray only recouped 19.13 per cent of its costs at the cinema, making it 2015’s biggest box-office disappointment.

The annual list yet again shows that even with the hottest of Hollywood stars in leading roles, there is no guarantee of success.

Actors making this year’s list include Bradley Cooper (Aloha), Johnny Depp (Mortdecai), George Clooney (Tomorrowland), Channing Tatum (Jupiter Ascending), and Zac Efron (We Are Your Friends).

The second biggest flop of the year is Sean Penn vehicle The Gunman which he co-wrote and co-produced. Michael Mann-directed Blackhat staring Chris Hemsworth is in third place, while Vince Vaughn comedy Unfinished Business is in fourth and Jem and the Holograms is in fifth place.

The full list can be found at Forbes. AFP

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Critics embrace Nixon's new role

JAMES WHITE

Stepping out of SATC shadow, Nixon drawing Oscar buzz

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Nixon plays a terminally-ill mother in the upcoming drama James White. CONTRIBUTED

It's been over a decade since Sex and the City ended its run on HBO and while the hit television series' stars have remained shrouded in the shadow of its success, Cynthia Nixon is finally stepping into the spotlight.

Starring in a forthcoming biopic about poet Emily Dickinson and recurring as a therapist in the upcoming season of Showtime's hit drama The Affair, the SATC actress is finally breaking out from being only recognized as Miranda Hobbes.

"It was a great time in just about every way," recalled Nixon recently of the classic series.

"Least of which was how deliciously the scripts were written and all the fun things you got to do. Its fun to have an ensemble like that (when) you mesh so well."

However, once the series ended, the twice-Emmy winning star found herself trying to shake the tyranny of typecasting. Instead of simply taking easy money because producers "think you should be doing romantic parts," Nixon chose to be cautiously selective — a choice that's finally paying off.

"I'll be 50 next year and the thing about getting older is there are fewer parts but the good news is, if you can get them, they're really interesting," said Nixon.

Specifically, she cites her latest portrayal as a terminally-ill mother dealing with a slouch son in the award-winning drama, James White — a role that's even drawing early Oscar buzz.

"When (producers) make movies about people dying of diseases, a common trap is that they set up a very two-dimensional character and then it's all about the disease," said Nixon, humbly crediting her positive reviews to filmmaker Josh Mond.

"People are very moved by the story (and) what's wonderful is how personally it hits people."

But James White also struck Nixon intimately. Just before shooting the film, her own mother succumbed to cancer — a somber circumstance that only informed and emboldened her even more to the character.

"I would've taken the part regardless of the situation but because of my situation, I was better equipped to do it," admitted Nixon.

"So even though it was of course sad at times, I think making the movie made me feel closer to my mother."

MOVIES

Cynthia Nixon's early career role model

Nixon may have started acting as a kid, but she always focused on the field for her career.

As such, one of her idols became actress (and Gwyneth Paltrow's mother) Blythe Danner after Nixon worked with her on stage.

"I was so impressed with not only her unbelievable skill, beauty and charm but what a rich, full life she had and how devoted she was to her kids," said Nixon. "She was a big role model for me."

Now playing

ANIMATION

The Good Dinosaur

Director: Peter Sohn
Starring: Raymond Ochoa, Jeffrey Wright

What if the cataclysmic asteroid that forever changed life on Earth actually missed the planet completely and giant dinosaurs never became extinct?

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 81% Audience: 81%

DRAMA

Trumbo

Director: Jay Roach
Starring: Bryan Cranston, Alan Tudyk

In 1947, Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood's top screenwriter until he and other artists were jailed and blacklisted for their political beliefs. The film recounts how Dalton used words and wit to win two Academy Awards and expose the absurdity and injustice under the blacklist.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
Critics: 73% Audience: 76%

DRAMA

Creed

Director: Ryan Coogler
Starring: Sylvester Stallone, Michael B. Jordan

Adonis Johnson never knew his famous father, world heavy weight champion Apollo Creed, who died before he was born. Still, there's no denying that boxing is in his blood, so Adonis heads to Philadelphia, the site of Apollo Creed's legendary match with Rocky Balboa.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE
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PUBLIC SPECTACLES

A history of Grey Cup halftime shows from Luba to Fall Out Boy

Alan Cross
For Metro Canada

Justin Bieber (2012)

The Guess Who (2000)

Black Eyed Peas (2005)

ALL PHOTOS THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sunday marks the 103rd edition of what some still call The Great National Drunk. And while the Grey Cup will always be dwarfed by the Super Bowl, we Canadians should remember that our game was into proper halftime spectacles before the NFL.

The first two dozen Super Bowl halftime shows featured little more than marching bands, over-produced thematic salutes (Hollywood, Mardi Gras, the cast of Peanuts) and insulin shock-inducing Up with People performers. It wasn't until 1993 that the league got serious, inviting Michael Jackson to perform at Super Bowl XVII.

The CFL had already discovered that the Grey Cup halftime worked better if the league presented more than some very smart dogs doing tricks.

The modern Grey Cup halftime show began in Winnipeg in 1991 when Luba — still very hot with songs like Let It Go — was brought in. This was the first Cup game to be held in Winnipeg, so organizers needed to prove that playing the game outdoors on the Prairies in November wasn't such a bad idea.

From then on, the Grey Cup halftime show became a much bigger priority. (There were a few duds like 1999's CFL Cheerleader Dance Routines, but never mind.)

In Toronto in 1992, it was Celine Dion. Vancouver brought in Tom Cochrane in 1994. The Guess Who entertained at McMahon Stadium in Calgary in 2000. Two years later in Edmonton, it was Shania Twain, followed by Bryan Adams and Sam Roberts (Regina, 2003) and the Tragically Hip (Ottawa, 2004).

Starting in 2005, organizers became open to hiring international acts, a controversial move given that the Grey Cup is supposed to be a quintessentially Canadian experience, but the Black Eyed Peas (Vancouver) did give the game an enhanced sense of prestige, as did Lenny Kravitz's performance in Toronto in 2007.

After that the pendulum swung back towards Canadian performers: Theory of a Deadman, Suzie McNeil and Andree Walters (2008), Blue Rodeo (2009) and Bachman & Turner (2010), Nickelback (2011), Justin Bieber, Carly Ray Jepson, Marianas Trench and, um, Gordon Lightfoot (2012) and Hedley (2013).

Now we seem to be into an international cycle again. Imagine Dragons brought down the house in B.C. last year. And despite the challenges of booking an international band on American Thanksgiving Weekend, Fall Out Boy will be at Investors Field in Winnipeg this Sunday.

ONE OTHER THING
The NFL doesn't pay its halftime performers a fee, saying that the exposure they get is enough. The CFL cuts a cheque every time.

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The most techie time of the year

FROM LAPTOPS TO TABLETS

Maximize those holiday deals to start 2016 in style

Marc Saltzman

Good news for those putting off the inevitable computer upgrade: there's never been a better time to buy one.

Between Black Friday sales, pre-holiday bargains and Boxing Week, retailers are looking to clear out their inventory to make way for 2016 models.

Not only can you take advantage of falling prices, but there are many brands to choose from, along with varying form factors, screen sizes and specifications ("specs").

But choosing the right device to match your needs and budget can be overwhelming. Here's a look at some recommended laptops, tablets and laptop-tablet hybrids, called "2-in-1s" to help you out.

Laptops

For those who prefer a classic clamshell laptop design with a large screen, full-sized keyboard, and multiple ports.

• If budget is limited, consider the blue HP Stream ($299), a 13.3-inch laptop powered by an Intel Celeron N3050 (1.6GHz) processor, 2 gigabytes of system memory (RAM) and 32-gigabytes of SSD flash memory – which is more durable, lighter and better on battery life than a hard drive. This Windows 10 PC also houses two USB 3.0 ports, a memory card reader, and DTS Sound+ with dual speakers.

• Thin is in with the ASUS Zenbook UX305 ($899), a slender 13.3-inch computer that's only 0.5-inches thick and weighs just 2.6 pounds. Under the hood is an Intel Core M-5Y10 processor. This laptop also benefits from 8 gigabytes of system memory, and 256 gigabytes of SSD storage. A Best Buy exclusive, this gold-coloured laptop ships with Windows 8.1, but can be upgraded to Windows 10 for free.

2-in-1s

As the name suggests, 2-in-1s are both a laptop and tablet in one device. These versatile PCs include a keyboard and trackpad for when you need to get work done, but they also let you use your fingertip to tap, swipe and flick on a multi-touch display.

• The Dell Inspiron 15 7000 Series 2-in-1 ($829.99) features a large 15.6-inch LED-backlit screen on a hinge, so it can be flipped back 360-degrees to put it in tablet mode. Not only is the keyboard now tucked underneath and out of the way, but it's disabled so you can't accidentally press keys. One of the two USB 3.0 ports has a PowerShare feature, which lets you use the 2-in-1's battery to charge other devices, like your smartphone. This Dell is equipped with Windows 10 and powered by a 6th Generation Intel Core i3 processor.

• Give the best of both worlds with the ASUS Transformer Book T100 ($299.99). This 10.1-inch computer has a QWERTY keyboard and trackpad for typing up an essay or sales report, but when it's time to kick back and relax on the couch – perhaps to read an ebook, watch a video, play a game or browse the web – simply detach the touchscreen and use it with your fingertips. Together, this screen and keyboard weighs just 1.2 pounds. Battery life tops 11 hours between charges.

Tablets

Smaller, lighter, and thinner, a touchscreen tablet also offers better battery life than a laptop.

• From $439, Apple's iPad mini 4 has a stunning 7.9-inch Retina display, a powerful A8 chip for fast performance, dual cameras, a Touch ID fingerprint sensor for convenient authorization, and the new iOS 9 operating system supports multitasking for iPad (be it split-screen or picture-in-picture). The App Store is a convenient way to access high-quality and inexpensive apps. A cellular option takes a SIM card for Internet access without requiring a Wi-Fi hotspot.

• If the popular Android platform is more your thing, Samsung's Galaxy Tab S2 (from $499.99 for 8-inch version) is the tech giant's flagship tablet. With it's ultra-realistic screen, blazing octo-core processor and ample storage options, the Galaxy Tab S2 might just be your go-to companion for work and play. Also sold as a 9.7-inch model (from $599.99), the Galaxy Tab S2 is available with 4G/LTE connectivity.

• For those who demand desktop-like performance, a full Windows experience, and PC-like ports such as USB and microSD, Microsoft's Surface Pro 4 (from $1,179) is garnering quite a buzz among mobile professionals.

Microsoft's 4th generation product is a powerful, 12.3-inch Windows 10 Pro tablet that supports multiple magnetic covers with an integrated keyboard and trackpad.

1 ASUS Zenbook UX305 laptop computer ($899)
2 Dell Inspiron 15 7000 Series 2-in-1 ($829.99)
3 Samsung Galaxy Tab S2 (from $499.99 for 8-inch version)
4 Apple iPad Mini 7.9-inch Retina display (From $439)

metro TRAVEL

Your essential daily news

Austria's Kitzbuehel named best ski resort of 2015 at World Ski Awards

A taste of the real Jamaica

SOUTH COAST

Go off the beaten track to explore the island's culinary side

Melissa Dunne
For Metro Canada

The salt-water pool at Jake's Hotel, where the water is pumped in straight from the bay. PHOTOS COURTESY MARY APESOS/FINN PARTNERS

When most Canadians jet off to Jamaica they go straight from the airport to behind the gates of an all-inclusive resort.

Once behind the gates, people are usually served bad drinks with little umbrellas in them, reheated versions of the same food you can get back home and truly terrible stale coffee in the morning when you're nursing the hangover from all the umbrella drinks you drank the day before.

Aim higher. If you're going to stay behind the resort gates you might as well stay home and sip on cheap rum in your basement while watching the latest hockey game. Instead of heading to the crowded, kitschy resorts in Montego Bay and Kingston, get a taste of the real Jamaica by heading off the beaten (tourist) track.

Jake's Hotel in Treasure Beach, where staff can organize off-site adventures with local guides accompanying you, is a great option for those wanting to safely explore the Caribbean island.

Jake's is a bumpy two-and-a-half hours' drive from Sangster's International Airport in Montego Bay. It's well worth the commute. Contact the hotel to arrange a driver, for $134 US, one way, for up to a group of four. The boutique hotel is actually a collection of colourful cottages, ranging from small rooms with garden views starting at about $135 US (all prices not inclusive of taxes and service fees, for a minimum five-night stay) to a luxury villa with ocean views from $1,110 US per night during the high season (from Dec. 15 to April 15).

Eat and drink local

Eat al fresco at Jake's with the sound of the salt-water crashing against the rocks in the background. The menu changes constantly, as it features local produce and seafood when it's in season. Be sure to try Jake's take on ackee and saltfish, Jamaica's national dish, for breakfast and pair it with a cup of famous Blue Mountain coffee.

To really get a sense of the St. Elizabeth Parish make sure to time your visit for the once-monthly farm-to-table event at Dool's Farm. The sunset dinner with the local farmer available to answer any questions is well worth the $95 US, plus taxes and tips. Most people in the rural, relaxed parish will gladly talk your ear off, so don't be shy to ask about the provenance and importance of their local food and drink.

The warm staff at Jake's can also help set up a boat tour, including a private feast with freshly caught lobster on a secluded beach, followed by a visit to Pelican Bar. The picturesque bar is actually a shack in the middle of the sea where you'll likely sip on a few Red Stripe beers and Appleton Estate rums mixed with ginger beer.

Rum is in the running to become the next bourbon, so there's no better place to get educated about the good stuff than by taking a day trip to partake in the Appleton Estate Rum Tour.

Once you've ventured beyond the resort gates in Jamaica you'll wonder why you stayed behind them for so long in the first place.

The writer was a guest of Jamaica Tourist Board, which did not review nor approve the story.

A lobster feast courtesy of One Love Boat Tours with captain Joseph Brown.

A traditional Jamaican breakfast at Jake's Hotel with fresh, locally grown ingredients.

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Don't let the loonie clip your travel wings

ON THE MOVE

Look at other sun spots when the dollar is weak

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada

The falling loonie has not only put a strain on the wallets of travellers heading to the United States but on sun seekers faced with rising prices from tour operators who do their contracting in U.S. dollars. But there are ways you can still take a winter holiday without breaking the bank.

Book now

Canadian travel companies have jumped on board the Cyber Monday shopping craze, making early next week the time to find some great deals. Starting Monday, Cheapflights.ca's 12 Days of Travel will feature one deal per day. These daily deals will cover budgets for every level and range from savings on Caribbean cruises, to discounted airfares on airlines like WestJet and Air Canada, to major discounts on hotel stays in Cuba and Dominican Republic. Transat.ca is celebrating Cyber Monday with a one-day auction on Twitter to benefit SOS Children's Villages. Twenty lots comprising sun packages to destinations like Mexico, Curacao and St. Maarten and roundtrip flights to Europe from 11 cities will be up for grabs.

Consider off-season travel

According to a recent Travelzoo.ca survey more Canadians (73 per cent) are opting for off-season vacations to save on costs. Although it may mean for a longer winter, beach bums should head south after Easter when prices start to drop. Travelling to Europe in the off-season is a great alternative for Canadians. Not only is the euro experiencing its own decline but there are deals to be had during the winter months. As an added bonus Canadians travelling to the "old world" in winter will experience smaller crowds than during the summer.

Travelling to Europe in the off-season is a great alternative for Canadians.

Seek out alternative (and better value) destinations

Skip the all-inclusive to Jamaica and head to spots in Central and South America like Panama and Ecuador, which are growing in popularity. According to online travel company FlightHub, Asia has seen a spike in popularity this winter with destinations like the Philippines and Thailand taking over the top ranking from the typical favourites Orlando and Las Vegas. Yes the flights to Asia are not cheap, but once you are on the ground you will get a much better bang for your Canadian buck.

Compare exchange rates

Consider getting local currency of the country you are travelling in versus bringing U.S. cash. It likely will yield you a better rate. Most major airports in the world have a bank machine making access to local currency easy when you first land.

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‘Rocky’ effect put Philly on world map

PENNSYLVANIA

Plenty of love for movie saga in resurgent city

It is a classic slice of pop history: Sylvester Stallone — a.k.a. “Rocky” — jogging up the steps of the art museum in Philadelphia.

For four decades, the boxing saga whose latest chapter hit U.S. screens Wednesday, helped put Philly on the map.

The 72 “Rocky Steps” — as they are known — are an irresistible draw to tourists who come to mimic the iconic scene from the Oscar-winning 1976 movie about an aspirational boxer named Rocky Balboa.

“The Rocky movie series has been an incredible part of the history and the legacy of the city Philadelphia,” Mayor Michael Nutter told AFP. “I mean this has been going on for 30 years now. It’s a part of us and we are a part of it.”

At the foot of the famed steps towers a 10-foot bronze statue of Rocky, commissioned by the saga’s star and creator Stallone for Rocky III and donated to the city after the shoot.

On a crisp fall day, Agga Dharma, a Buddhist monk newly arrived from Myanmar, waits in turn with a dozen tourists to snap a selfie beside it. Yes, he says, Rocky is a phenomenon in his native Burma too.

The statue is Philly’s most asked-about landmark behind the Liberty Bell, a symbol of the birth of the United States, says Anne McGuigan, a volunteer at the tourist office.

Visitors can pick up Rocky-themed maps guiding them to the steps and statue, but also a dozen locations from the Italian market, home to Esposito’s Butcher shop, to Pat’s King of Steaks — the Philly cheesesteak sandwich spot — or the Penn’s landing waterfront.

“The Rocky movie series,” says Nutter, “put Philadelphia on the international map. For that, we’re very proud and very grateful.”

Now Creed is hitting screens just in time for U.S. Thanksgiving. The saga’s seventh instalment sees Stallone return as the veteran Balboa, called out of retirement to mentor the son of a late friend and boxing rival.

Restored pride

Rocky’s popularity is not universal in Philly. Some here see the franchise, already spun out across five sequels and a Broadway musical, as having run its course long ago.

“Some people like it, some people don’t,” said Jordan Morinich, an employee at Esposito’s, of the phenomenon. “All the shops used to have a picture of him inside. We never had one. I don’t think it changes anything for business.”

The Rocky statue was originally located at the top of the famous steps, but had to be moved after locals complained it was inappropriate outside a museum.

But in Pennsylvania’s largest city, Rocky still gets a lot of love.

“When it first came out, it restored pride to the city,” said Vince Giaccobi, who grew up in Philadelphia. “In the ’70s and ’80s, the city wasn’t where it needed to be,” he said, referring to its reputation as a blue-collar, struggling town.

These days, it is a city on the move, something of a boom town. Largely neglected for decades, its downtown has been revitalized, and bristles with new restaurants, bars and construction projects.

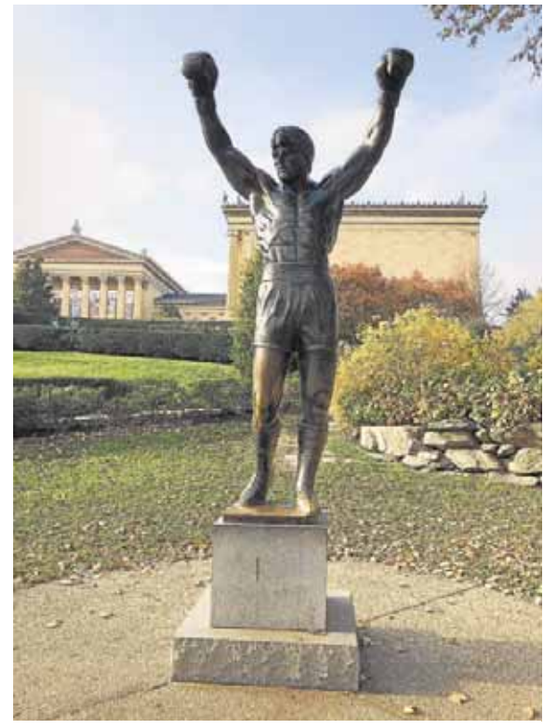
Poverty remains a concern, with a citywide level among the 10 highest in the country. But economic growth is solid.

“It’s changed a lot. Now it’s more culturally oriented. I think it’s for the better,” Giacobbi said.

Craig Schelter, executive director at the city’s Development Workshop, which acts as a bridge between government and the private sector, says tax benefits in 1997 were critical to the downtown rebirth.

Developers began investing massively and by 2008, cable giant Comcast was moving into its new headquarters there. Big growth at the city’s big three universities — Penn, Drexel and Temple — also has been a driving factor, according to Schelter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“Every time Rocky comes out, I get 50 kids in the gym.... With this opening up, it’s going to be packed again. Frank Kubach, whose Front Street Gym was used to shoot Creed



The 10-foot Rocky Balboa statue in front of the Museum of Art in Philadelphia. THOMAS URBAIN/AFP

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metro SPORTS

Liverpool qualified for the last 32 of the Europa League thanks to a Christian Benteke goal, while Celtic is knocked out by Ajax 2-1

Pedan more than a fighter

NHL

Canucks D-line prospect has been called back big league

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

In the hockey parlance, Andrey Pedan can throw 'em. Type his name into YouTube's search engine and you're likely to come across numerous fight clips involving the Vancouver Canucks prospect.

Despite suffering a season-ending concussion in March as the result of being injured in a fight, in which Pedan was dropped violently to the ice after being repeatedly punched in the head, he admitted he would still fight if the opportunity presents itself.

But he doesn't want the element of fisticuffs to define him as a hockey player.

He believes there is more to his game, which has continued to develop under Utica Comets head coach Travis Green and since the Canucks acquired him from the New York Islanders a year ago. "I don't want to be known as a fighter," said Pedan.

"I have that aspect of my game. If I need to protect my teammates or someone is playing dirty, I'll for sure step in. I'm not the guy that just goes and looks for one."

With rookie Ben Hutton currently out of the lineup with an injury, the Canucks needed an extra defenceman to join them for their current four-game road trip, which started Wednesday. It remains to be seen if Pedan will get into the lineup.

"I don't think he had his best training camp. I expected more in camp. But he's gone down and he's been good in Utica and deserves to get called back," said Canucks head coach Willie Desjardins this week.

Pedan, with one goal and seven points in 15 games, left Utica tied for the team lead in points amongst defencemen with rookie Jordan Subban, to go along with 27 shots on goal.

At six-foot-five-inches tall and 217 pounds, Pedan doesn't lack size or strength. And he can use that to his advantage by playing a physical style.

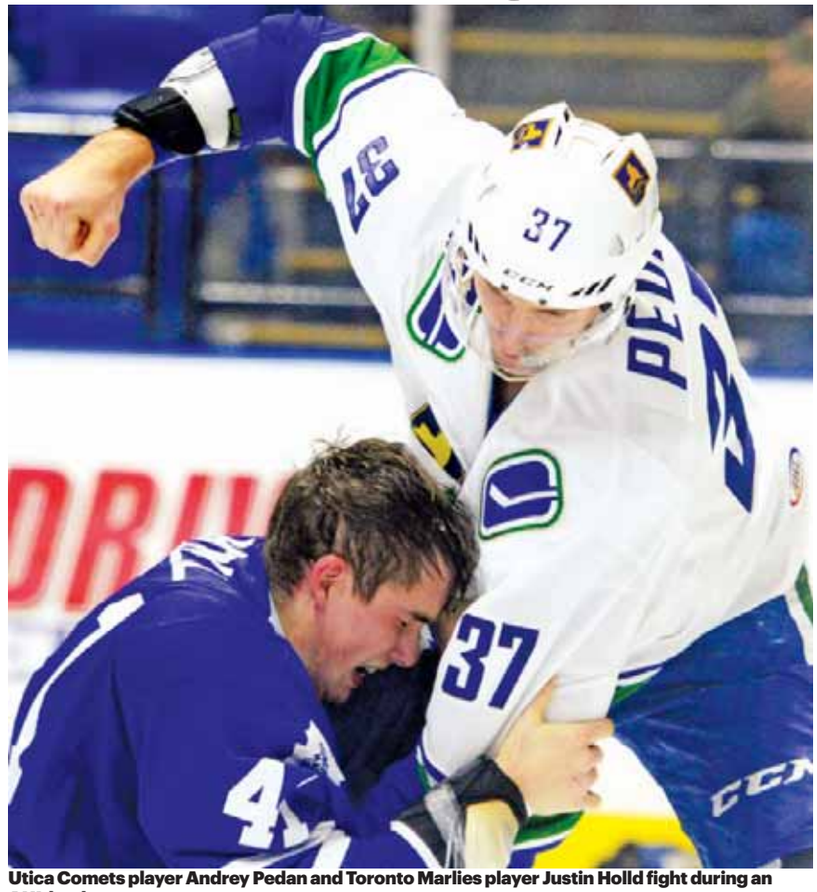
"They want me to be a solid defenceman that's hard to play against in the defensive zone, moving the puck and keeping it simple. I'm not trying to do too much," said Pedan. Young defencemen need to be able to make a good breakout pass or skate the puck out of the defensive end and join the rush when the timing is right, said Green. "He's come a long ways," added Green.

STARS UP NEXT

The Vancouver Canucks, coming off a road win over the Minnesota Wild on Wednesday, face the Dallas Stars on Friday.

The Canucks are currently on a four-game road trip, which wraps up Tuesday in L.A. against the Kings.

CAM TUCKER/METRO



Utica Comets player Andrey Pedan and Toronto Marlies player Justin Holld fight during an AHL hockey. TINA RUSSELL/OBSERVER-DISPATCH VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL IN BRIEF

Injury will keep Habs' Price out for at least a week

Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price will miss at least a week due to a nagging lower-body injury.

Price played the first 40 minutes in a 5-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night but did not return for the third period. Head coach Michel Therrien said Thursday that Price has been put on the injured list.

On Wednesday night, the coach said the lower-body injury was the same one that kept Price — the league's No.1 goalie — out for nine games earlier this season. Price won the Ted Lindsay, Jennings, Vezina and Hart trophies last season. He was the first goaltender in NHL history to win all four awards in the same campaign. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilers' Yakupov out for 2-4 weeks with ankle sprain

Edmonton Oilers forward Nail Yakupov is expected to miss two to four weeks after spraining his left ankle in a 4-1 loss to the Carolina Hurricanes on Wednesday.

He was knocked down when linesman Matt MacPherson lost his balance and fell backwards after a faceoff early in the second period. Yakupov had to be helped off the ice.

"It could've been worse based on what happened," Oilers coach Todd McLellan said Thursday. Yakupov had picked up his 100th career point earlier in the game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dallas quarterback Tony Romo is helped off the field by team staff after suffering another injury in the second half of the defeat to the Panthers Thursday. BRANDON WADE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Romo roughed up as Panthers stay perfect

Cam Newton is still perfect this season. But Tony Romo might be out for good with the same injury that sidelined him for seven games.

Newton got a big boost from a defence that returned two of Romo's three interceptions for touchdowns, and the Panthers ran their NFL-best winning streak to 15 regular-season games with a 33-14 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday.

Romo injured the same left collarbone that sidelined him for all seven games of a losing streak that damaged the playoff hopes for the defending NFC East champion Cowboys (3-8).

THURSDAY in Texas

PANTHERS	COWBOYS
33	14

Carolina linebacker Luke Kuechly intercepted two straight passes by Romo, returning the first 32 yards for a touchdown.

Safety Kurt Coleman picked off Romo's second pass of the game and took it back 36 yards for the score to help the Panthers become the 16th NFL team to start a season 11-0. Newton did his part as well, getting Carolina's only offensive touchdown on a four-yard run for a 30-6 lead moments before Romo's injury. He had 183 yards passing with several key third-down conversions and another 45 yards rushing.

On the second play of Dallas' possession after Newton's score, Romo was hit by a blitzing Thomas Davis and went down on his left shoulder.

Romo went on injured reserve with a designation to return after the first injury, and the Cowboys couldn't win without him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIONS FEAST

Matthew Stafford (5 TD passes) and Calvin Johnson (3 TDs) combined for one of the best games of their careers, helping the surging Detroit Lions beat the Philadelphia Eagles 45-14. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

T-Birds cleared for takeoff

VANIER CUP

UBC searching for its first national title since 1997

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

It's been an improbable turnaround season that Blake Nill says has defied logic.

From a 2-6 record and last-place finish in Canada West a year ago, the UBC Thunderbirds completely revamped their program — most notably with the hiring of Nill, the highly accomplished Canadian college coach, to the recruitment of quarterback Michael O'Connor — and will now take on the Montreal Carabins in Quebec City on Saturday for the right to hoist the Vanier Cup. UBC hasn't won a national football title since 1997.

Blake Nill THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I obviously put a plan in place … hoping this would happen," said Nill. "But deep down … it defies logic."

The Thunderbirds enter this game on a seven-game winning streak. It was a road victory over the Saskatchewan Huskies on Oct. 23 that Nill points to as a pivotal moment in their season.

"From that point on, I think we've been getting better and better," said Nill. The one-year anniversary of Nill's appointment to the UBC job is next month.

He emphasizes the importance of recruiting to build a successful program, and in February he delivered, landing Michael O'Connor from Penn State, despite the Canadian quarterback receiving "dozens of U.S. offers, said Nill. For all the progress the Thunderbirds have made over the last year, one more game remains.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for star running back Brandon Deschamps. In his final year of eligibility, Saturday will mark the last game of his university career.

In 2011, when Deschamps was in his first year, the T-Birds made it to the Hardy Cup game — the Canada West final — but were pummelled by the Calgary Dinos.

The following month, UBC had all its wins from that season taken away after the program disclosed to Canada West a player-eligibility violation.

Deschamps admitted he returned for his senior year to help lead the team as the program transitioned under the direction of Nill, the new coach. Now, he's about to play in a Vanier Cup game.

"Every year, this is what you dream about. Every year, when you spend your off-season (training), this is what you're working toward. You're working toward an opportunity to win a Vanier Cup," said Deschamps.

"Every year, that's the plan. Every year, beside this one, we really haven't come close. "I don't think I ever expected to be here, to be honest with you."

The UBC Thunderbirds celebrate after defeating the St. Francis Xavier X-Men in the Uteck Bowl in Antigonish, N.S., last weekend. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **I don't think I ever expected to be here, to be honest with you.**
> UBC running back Brandon Deschamps

PAN AM GAMES

Canadians upgraded after disqualifications

Canadian swimmer Zack Chetrat will have his Pan Am medal upgraded to silver while teammate Alec Page and distance runner Rachel Hannah will receive bronze medals after a pair of Peruvian athletes were disqualified due to doping infractions.

Zack Chetrat
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Canadian Olympic Committee was informed of the redistribution of medals by the Pan American Sports Organization after the conclusion of the anti-doping process.

Hannah gets the third-place result in the women's marathon. "It's a really nice surprise after the fact," she said. Chetrat moves into second place in the men's 200-metre butterfly while Page takes third in the same event.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Five more Russians hit with lengthy doping bans

Two Russian weightlifters, two professional cyclists and a sport dancer have been banned for doping, the country's anti-doping agency said Thursday.

Both cyclists race for Itera-Katusha, which was briefly denied a license in 2012 over repeated doping violations. The cyclists are Ivan Lutsenko and Andrei Lukonin. The weightlifters include Azamat Dzhioev, who received a four-year ban. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazil soccer chief loses seat on FIFA committee

The Brazilian Football Confederation says its president Marco Polo del Nero has stepped down from FIFA's executive committee and will be replaced by Fernando Sarney.

Del Nero was not indicted in the FIFA scandal that began six months ago. But he could be arrested if he leaves Brazil. Del Nero has been in Brazil since he fled Zurich in May when Swiss officials arrested top football officials. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TENNIS

Murray eyes Davis history for Britain

Andy Murray ended a 77-year wait for a British man to win Wimbledon and he is on the verge of snapping an even longer drought in the Davis Cup final.

The best-of-five series between Britain and Belgium starts Friday with David Goffin playing Kyle Edmund, who will be making his Davis Cup debut in the final. Murray then plays Ruben Bemelmans, who was picked over higher-ranked Steve Darcis.

Captains can change their picks and Belgium's Johan van Herck has indicated that he could take advantage of that option. "The weekend will be long," van Herck said. "I think we took the best decision and we'll see who will play Saturday and Sunday." Murray said he was not bothered by the prospect of perhaps playing three matches in three days.

"I am happy to take as much pressure on my shoulder as needed," Murray said

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LION ON TOP

Tackle king Bighill wins the case for the defence

Adam Bighill of the B.C. Lions is the CFL's top defensive player.

Bighill was honoured at the league's awards banquet Thursday night, receiving 46 of 75 first-place ballots in voting conducted by the Football Reporters of Canada. Linebacker Simoni Lawrence of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats was the finalist.

Bighill is the second straight Lion to capture the honour as teammate Solomon Elimimian won it last year as well as the CFL's outstanding player award.

Bighill recorded a CFL- and career-high 121 tackles this season. The five-foot-10 230-pound linebacker also had four sacks, an interception and fumble recovery.

The six-foot-one 228-pound Lawrence recorded career highs in tackles (80) and sacks (five) while adding two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and one forced fumble. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reilly's intelligence earns praise

CFL

Edmonton QB blends smarts with rugged style of play

Mike Reilly focused as much on his grades as he did on football while growing up.

The Edmonton Eskimos quarterback graduated from Central Washington University with a 3.6 grade-point average and a mechanical engineering degree.

"I just always really liked math and numbers and puzzles and things like that and trying to figure things out," Reilly said Thursday. "My favourite course in college was probably physics. It was calculus for a while until I got into 300-level calculus and then I was like, 'Ah, this stuff is crazy. I don't like this anymore.'"

89.8

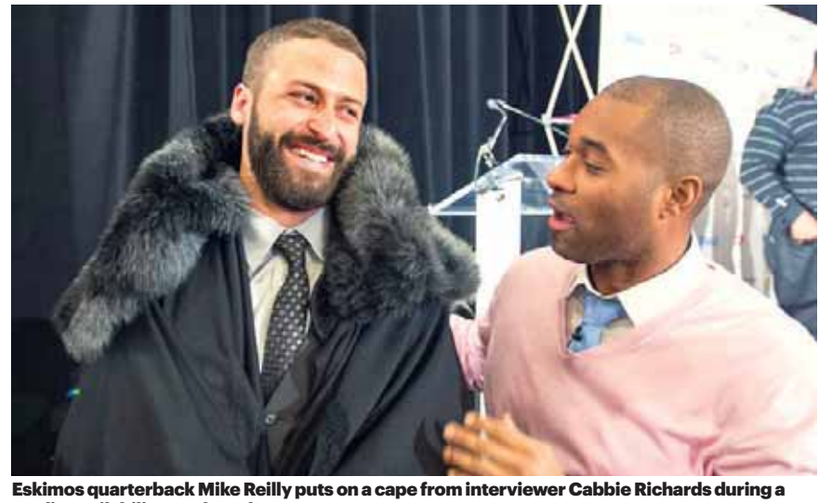
Reilly played just 10 games this regular season due to torn ligaments in his left knee. He still managed to complete 65 per cent of his passes and posted a 89.8 passer rating — both are highs for him as an Eskimo.

He even used his degree between being released by the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers in September 2009 and being signed by the Green Bay Packers two months later.

"I worked designing H-VAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) and plumbing systems for a processing plant," Reilly said of the job near his hometown of Kennewick, Wash. "It was an experience. I like football a lot better, for sure. That's why they tell you to get your degree, so that when you fall on hard times you've got something to fall back on."

Reilly, 30, has held down a job he loves since signing with the B.C. Lions in 2010 before being traded to Edmonton in 2013.

As his Eskimos prepare to take on the Ottawa Redblacks in Sunday's Grey Cup, coaches and teammates praise Reilly for his brains, leadership and toughness.



Eskimos quarterback Mike Reilly puts on a cape from interviewer Cabbie Richards during a media availability on Thursday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Just putting things together, understanding how it works, he's very cerebral," Edmonton offensive co-ordinator Stephen McAdoo said.

"He probably doesn't get enough credit for his mind and how he handles things out on the field."

McAdoo, a former offensive lineman who's been around a lot of quarterbacks, put Reilly up there with Toronto's Ricky Ray and former Montreal pivot Anthony Calvillo.

"Probably the biggest thing that I get from Mike, and you can probably ask anybody around this league that knows him or has played against him, is he's one of the toughest competitors around," he said.

"He's very tough. I love him for that, but I try to get him to understand I don't need him to be tough all the time," he added. "There's smart times to be tough. Don't take unnecessary hits." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Sweet Potato Shepherd's Pie

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We've updated this classic comfort food dish with a healthy topping of mashed sweet potatoes.

Ready in
Prep time: 60 minutes
Serves 8

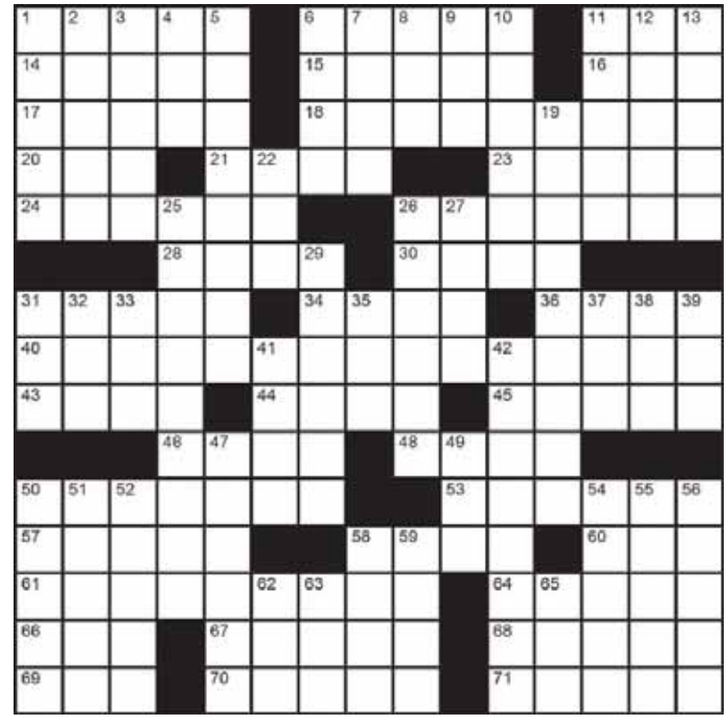
Ingredients
- 2 lb organic lean ground beef
- 2 large cloves garlic, diced
- 3 sticks celery, diced
- 2 yellow onions, diced
- 2 large carrots, diced
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 2 Tbsps chili powder
- 2 tsps ground cumin
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 Tbsps flour
- 1/2 cup beef broth
- 1/4 cup water
- 6 drops of Worcestershire sauce
- 2 large sweet potatoes, cut into even-sized wedges
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 Tbsps butter

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. In a large Dutch oven, cook beef over medium heat until browned, about 10 minutes.
3. Stir in garlic, celery, onions, carrots, pepper, chili powder, cumin, cinnamon, oregano and 1 tsp of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are tender, about 15 minutes.
4. Stir in flour; cook for 1 minute. Add broth, water and Worcestershire sauce; simmer for 3 minutes. Divide mixture between two 8-inch baking dishes.
5. Meanwhile, in large pot of boiling salted water, cook sweet potato until tender, about 12 minutes. Drain and return pot to low heat. Stir in milk, butter and remaining salt; mash until smooth. Spread evenly over beef.
6. Bake until bubbly at the edges, about 35 minutes. Or cover with plastic wrap and then foil and freeze for up to 1 month. Bake, uncovered and frozen, in 350 F oven for 50 to 60 minutes.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Fastened: 2 wds.
6. Morning times: acronym + abbr.
11. Ms. Monroe, mini-ly
14. _-_-porter
15. Tamarack _ (NWT's official tree)
16. 'Brit' suffix
17. Classic fabric
18. Territory just outside Montreal where the Mohawk ironworkers who worked on #50-Across (as well as other buildings and bridges in North America for more than a century) are from
20. Veggie of Japan
21. Mr. Sachedina (Correspondent, CTV National News)
23. B-movie prop, _ ray gun
24. Melancholy in mood
26. Food storage items
28. 'Euclid' and 'Jacob' suffixes
30. Ms. Poehler's
31. Render revolverless
34. Seep slowly
36. Colosseum outfit
40. Dsquared2 is the fashion brand of these identical Canadian twin brothers: 4 wds.
43. Spectacles holders
44. Egypt-themed opera
45. Many times
46. Pirouette-maker's garb
48. Shingles site
50. _ Tower aka One World Trade Center (New York's tallest skyscraper)
53. Greatly grasp
57. Swift
58. Lingerie pieces
60. 1985 chart-topper: "We _ the World"
61. Travel plan
64. Happen
66. Jiffy
67. Rapscallion
68. Got along
69. ms. lang, et al.
70. Mary, Queen of _
71. Guitar bars

DOWN
1. Grade below C Minus: letter + wd.
2. 'Rainbow'-meaning prefix
3. Religion branch [abbr.]
4. Sport-_ (All-purpose vehicle)
5. Vista
6. _-Seltzer
7. Volcanic crater
8. Royal's title letters
9. Mil. force since 1910
10. "Only Love" feat. Pitbull & Gene Noble is a current song by what Grammy-winning reggae star?
11. Florida city
12. Billy Joel's "Don't _ _ Why"
13. Ostrich-like birds
19. Johanna _, CBC News Now meteorologist
22. Gents
25. Dr. Stanley K. _ (Canadian weight loss physician)
26. Grand _ (Istanbul marketplace)
27. Preacher's closer
29. Dietary concern
31. 'Quiet' add-on
32. PBS funding org.
33. Swiss river, variantly
35. Unpaired
37. Slugger Mel
38. "Sheesh!"
39. The way Miss Shirley doesn't spell her name
41. 1949-created intl. alliance
42. Becomes less hot: 2 wds.
47. Farm milk dispensers
49. Goose, in Italy
50. Search, security-style
51. Ranked
52. The Odyssey, and others
54. Mother-of-pearl
55. Oil holder in the kitchen
56. Does a Border Collie's work
58. _ After Shave
59. Deli breads
62. Legendary bird
63. Past
65. Elevator _

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
If someone places an obstacle in your path your reaction will be to smash it to pieces. Such an extreme reaction could have unforeseen consequences, so find a compromise.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If you let your suspicions get the best of you you might miss out on something fun. Not everyone is out to get you or grow rich at your expense. Don't be so defensive.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
It does not matter what feuds you've had in the past, it only matters now that you work together on something that you both believe in. You can do a lot of good if you join forces with like-minded people.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You can't force people to change their ways. You may try to persuade them, but they must be free to make their own mistakes. We learn most from the things we get wrong.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Cosmic activity in the communications area of your chart means you have plenty to say for yourself. Make sure that your words are positive and progressive because a lot of people will take what you say seriously.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will have to make some unpopular decisions. Don't waste time worrying about what other people might think, just do what needs to be done.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Mars in your sign gives you the courage to take risks but they are more likely to pay off if you allow yourself to be guided by what your inner voice is trying to tell you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you do not feel comfortable then get up and leave. You must not put your own needs on hold just to make others feel good. On the contrary, your first duty is always to yourself.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You'll find it easy to get support today, let others know that what you do for yourself you'll also do for them. It may not be entirely true but if you succeed they will certainly get a share of the spoils.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You've lost your direction lately but today your aim is crystal clear: you know exactly what you are doing and why you are doing it. Make sure you don't lose sight of your target again.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You need to bring problems and worries into the open where they can be discussed and dealt with. Don't go looking to blame others and you will find it easy to reach a compromise.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
A chapter in your life has been finished and it is time to move on. There may be one or two tears but that is natural and nothing to be ashamed of. What comes next will be much more enjoyable.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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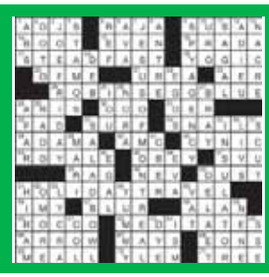

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8	7	9	1	6	2	5	3	4
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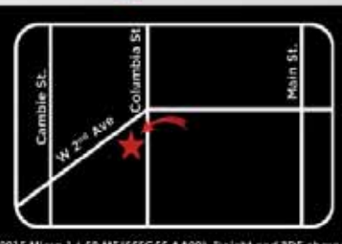

*Selling price starting from $9,998 for a 2015 Nissan Micra 1.6 S MT (S5LG5S AA00) manual transmission (including freight and PDE charges and specific duties of new tires). Model shown $15,748 selling price for a new 2015 Micra 1.6 SR MT (S5SG5S AA00). Freight and PDE charges ($1,400), air-conditioning levy ($100) where applicable, certain fees (ON: $8 OMVIC fee and $29 tire stewardship fee), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Offers are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Price shown not applicable in Quebec. Offers have no cash alternative value. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. iPod® is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. All rights reserved. iPod® and cables not included. The Nissan names, logos, product names, feature names, and slogans are trademarks owned by or licensed to Nissan Canada Inc. and/or its North American subsidiaries.

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